

# American Studies (B.A.)

## Program Description

Webster University's College of Arts & Sciences fosters free and rigorous intellectual inquiry among students and faculty in an atmosphere that respects differences in background, belief, and aspiration. We promote the values that ground an open, critically reflective, culturally diverse, and democratic society, and we prepare students to be active contributors to such a society.

As part of an international university, we encourage students to expand their horizons by learning the languages and worldviews of other cultures. We inspire students to seek the common ground upon which humans create sustainable relationships with each other and with their wider environment.

Owing to the general and fundamental nature of our various disciplines, we are committed to providing academic and intellectual support to the entire university.

We include several professional programs, which are guided by contemporary practices, appropriate accreditation standards, and the best recent scholarly activity.

## Locations

To learn where the B.A. in American Studies is offered, please visit our Web site at [www.webster.edu/ugcatalog](http://www.webster.edu/ugcatalog)

## Learning Objectives

Upon completion of the program, students should:

- Be familiar with American culture and institutions in the past and present.
- Be able to demonstrate knowledge of different disciplinary approaches to the study of American culture.

## Degree Requirements

42 required credit hours

- 30 credit hours in the department
- 12 credit hours from designated courses outside the department

27 general education credit hours

59 elective credit hours

Students are required to complete 42 credit hours; 30 credit hours must be within the department, and 12 must be selected from designated courses outside the department. The 30 credit hours within the department must include INTL 1500, POLT 1060, HIST 1320 (HIST 1300 or HIST 1310 may be substituted), a course in methods, a research requirement (fulfilled by taking the seminar, senior thesis, or a designated upper-level course in history or political science), senior overview, and 6 credit hours from Group A and 6 credit hours from Group B listed below. The 12 credit hours from outside the department must be selected from Group C below.

In addition to methods and the senior overview, at least 12 credit hours within the major must be upper-level coursework (3000 or above). If the student's coursework from Groups A, B, and C is not upper level, additional coursework must be completed so that the student has at least 6 credit hours of upper-level coursework from either Groups A or B and 6 credit hours of upper-level coursework from any of the Groups, A, B, or C. This should result in a total of 12 credit hours of upper-level coursework. At least 18 of the 42 credit hours must be taken at Webster University. There is a minimum distribution of coursework as well as the above requirements:

INTL 1500 The World System since 1500	3 hours
POLT 1060 Introduction to American Politics	3 hours
HIST 1320 Twentieth-Century United States or HIST 1300 Revolutionary America or HIST 1310 Nineteenth-Century America	3 hours
HIST 2600 Methods of Research or POLT 2600 Research Methods and Approaches in Political Science	3 hours
Senior Overview	0 hours

Group A--Students must select at least 6 credit hours from the following:

HIST 1010 Topics in History (with American subtitle)	3 hours
HIST 1150 History of Popular Culture (with American subtitle)	3 hours
HIST 1300 Revolutionary America	3 hours
HIST 1310 Nineteenth-Century America	3 hours
HIST 1320 Twentieth-Century United States	3 hours
HIST 1500 American Studies	3 hours
HIST 2000 Social History (with American subtitle)	3 hours
HIST 2060 Gender and Family (with American subtitle)	3 hours
HIST 2310 Encounters with American History	3 hours
HIST 2320 African-American History	3 hours
HIST 2340 History of American Business and Management	3 hours
HIST 2550 History of the Consumer Society	3 hours
HIST 3000 Ideas in History (with American subtitle)	3 hours
HIST 3050 Economic History (with American subtitle)	3 hours
HIST 3060 History Roundtable (with American subtitle)	3 hours
HIST 3100 Diplomatic History: U.S.	3 hours
HIST 4300 Advanced Studies in U.S. History	3 hours
HIST 4600 History Seminar (with American subtitle)	3 hours
HIST 4700 Senior Thesis	4 hours

Group B--Students must select at least 6 credit hours from the following:

POLT 2400 or LEGL 2400 Introduction to Law	3 hours
POLT 1000 Topics in Politics (with American subtitle)	3 hours
POLT 1060 Introduction to American Politics	3 hours
POLT 1750 State and Local Government	3 hours
POLT 2050 Contemporary American Politics	3 hours
POLT 2060 Politics and Gender	3 hours
POLT 2070 Politics of Race and Ethnicity	3 hours
POLT 2500 Interdisciplinary Approach to Politics (with American subtitle)	3 hours
POLT 3010 American Constitutional Law	3 hours
POLT 3020 Civil Liberties and the Law	3 hours
POLT 3310 Conduct of Foreign Policy (with U.S. focus)	3 hours
POLT 3320 American National Institutions	3 hours
POLT 4600 Political Science Seminar (with American subtitle)	3 hours
POLT 4700 Senior Thesis	4 hours

Group C--Students must select at least 12 credit hours from the following:

ANSO 1020 Social Issues	3 hours
ANSO 2000 Issues in Contemporary Society (with American subtitle)	1-4 hours
ANSO 2030 Culture and Communication (with American subtitle)	3 hours
ANSO 2040 North American Indians: Pre-Columbian to 1870	3 hours
ANSO 2050 North American Indians: 1870 to the Present	3 hours
ANSO 2560 Social Movements	3 hours
ANSO 3600/PSYC 3600 Social Psychology	3 hours

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ANSO 3960 Ethnic and Minority Relations	3 hours
ANSO 4200 Class, Status, and Power	3 hours
ARHS 3370 Art Since 1945	3 hours
ARHS 4350 Topics in Art History	
Relevant topics:	
(1) Abstract Expressionism (2) American Art	3 hours
BIOL 1310 Issues in Biology	
(with American Rivers subtitle only)	1-3 hours
ENGL 2040 Major U.S. Writers	3 hours
ENGL 2110 Perspectives (with American subtitle)	3 hours
ENGL 2210 Literature into Film	3 hours
ENGL 3450 Reading and Writing Autobiography	3 hours
ENGL 3500 Contexts (with American subtitle)	3 hours
FILM 1800 Film Appreciation	3 hours
FILM 3150 Topics (with American subtitle)	3 hours
FILM 3160 Topics in Film Studies	
(with American subtitle)	3 hours
GNST 1300/1308 Technology, Science, and Society	
(with American subtitle)	2-4 hours
GNST 1400 Civilization and the Arts	
(with American subtitle)	2-4 hours
GNST 2000/2004/2005/20006 Topics in the Liberal Arts	
(with American subtitle)	1-3 hours
GNST 2500 Honors Seminar (with American subtitle)	3 hours
GNST 3500 Liberal Arts Seminar (with American subtitle)	3 hours
JOUR 2360 History and Principles	
of American Journalism	3 hours
JOUR 2380 Free Expression and the First Amendment	3 hours
LEGL 2080 Topics in Law (with American subtitle)	3 hours
MEDC 1010 Introduction to Mass Communications	3 hours
MEDC 2800 Cultural Diversity in the Media	3 hours
MEDC 3800 Studies in Cultural Diversity	
(with American subtitle)	3 hours
MEDC 4100 The Law and the Media	3 hours
MULC 2010 Introduction to Multicultural Studies	3 hours
MULC 4650 Seminar in Multicultural Studies	3 hours
MUSC 1070 Topics in Music (with American subtitle)	3 hours
MUSC 3170 Jazz History I	3 hours
MUSC 3180 Jazz History II	3 hours
MUTH 1030 History of American Musical Theatre	3 hours
PHIL 2080 Topics (with American subtitle)	3 hours
PHIL 2320 Contemporary Moral Problems	3 hours
PHIL 2540 American Philosophy	3 hours
PHIL 3370 Philosophy and Women	3 hours
PSYC 2000 Issues in Contemporary Psychology	
(with American subtitle)	1-4 hours
PSYC 2700 Psychology of Women	3 hours
RELG 2030 Contemporary Topics	
(with American subtitle)	3 hours
RELG 2100 Religion and Literature	
(with American subtitle)	3 hours
RELG 2420 Religion and Culture (with American subtitle)	3 hours
RELG 3070 Psychology of Religion	
(with American subtitle)	3 hours
RELG 3180 Judaism (with American subtitle)	3 hours
RELG 3190 Christianity (with American subtitle)	3 hours
RELG 3200 Islam (with American subtitle)	3 hours
RELG 4040 Belief Systems (with American subtitle)	3 hours
SCIN 1520 Environment (intended for non-majors)	3 hours
SCIN 1521 Environment: Lab	1 hour

## Special Requirements

Courses completed with a grade of D+ or below do not count toward fulfilling the specific course requirements of the major. A total of 6 credit hours of internship may be used to satisfy American studies degree requirements, with a maximum of 3 credit hours counting as upper-level coursework.