INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

American Studies is an interdisciplinary major that provides undergraduates the opportunity to study American history, identity, culture, politics, and the built environment. The major offers intensive, individualized faculty advising and mentorship to help students tap into the enormous and varied resources of Berkeley to tackle the question of what is “American” about America. Our courses integrate subjects, methods, and materials from across campus, including the humanities, the social sciences, and the professional schools.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

- Take a student-run DeCal course like AMERSTD 98: Deconstructing America: Mythology and Hidden History.
- Explore America in the world through study abroad.
- Attend a California American Studies Association event.
- Apply for a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship to support your senior thesis.
- Challenge yourself with an American Studies honors seminar and experience individual research mentorship.

AREAS OF CONCENTRATION

American Studies majors develop individual areas of concentration that focus on specific issues relating to U.S. culture, politics, economy, environment, and media. Students are able to draw on a broad spectrum of fields of knowledge, including law, business, ecology, geography, political economy, public policy, architecture, performance, and ethnic, racial, and urban studies. Designed around the axes of “time,” “place,” and material culture, we teach students how to ask and answer scholarly questions and how to design and execute a capstone senior thesis project.

I loved having the flexibility of being able to take some of the best classes from some of the best professors and being able to apply a breadth of knowledge from different disciplines.

– Catherine Ladd, Class of 2018
**AMERICAN STUDIES**

**Bachelor of Arts**

**Explore your major**
- Meet with faculty, major, and college advisor to discuss academic plans.
- Review the American Studies website and student handbook, and research possible concentrations.
- Enroll in AMERSTD 10 & other lower division prerequisites now or before your third year.

**Connect and build community**
- Get 1:1 mentoring with Berkeley Connect from graduate students in fields like History or English.
- Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center.
- Enroll in UGIS 98: College Success in L&S.
- Participate in Cal Day at the American Studies table.

**Discover your passions**
- Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar.
- Take a student-run DeCal course such as AMERSTD 98: Deconstructing America: Mythology and Hidden History.
- Visit the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships.
- Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar, Big Ideas Course, or Discovery Course.
- Join a student organization like Multicultural Community Center or UC Berkeley Public Service Center.
- Meet faculty and students at the American Studies Spring Conference.
- Participate in Cal Day at the American Studies table.

**Engage locally and globally**
- Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with a student organization.
- Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
- Explore study, internship, and research abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad.
- Contribute to a community organization with an American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.
- Get involved with a service-learning program like Alternative Breaks or BUILD.
- Assist faculty and graduate students in their research through URAP and SURF-SMART.
- Attend the annual American Studies spring colloquium.
- Find research and funding opportunities in the OURS database.
- Consider applying to the Haas Scholars Program or SURF.
- Attend the American Studies Spring Conference.

**Reflect and plan your future**
- Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library.
- Check out the Career Center Yearly Planner.
- Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail.
- Check out the Career Center resources for interests within American Studies related to social impact, international relations, and communications.
- Meet with a Career Center counselor to discuss your career options and goals.
- Explore career fields through the Career Connections Series or a winter internship.
- Learn about graduate and professional school.
- Think about doing an Internship and attend an Internship Fair.

**WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?**

**Jobs and Employers**
- Analyst, Bank of America
- Asst. Editor, Skybridge College Consulting
- Assoc. Professor, UWMadison Behavior Therapist, June
- Chief Resident in Emergency Medicine, New York-Presbyterian Hospital
- Corporate Account Executive, GitHub
- Graphic Designer, ACUS Health Educator, Public Health Institute
- Housing Specialist, City of Vallejo Real Estate Analyst, Century 21 Recruiter, Family Builders by Adoption
- Reporter, KALW
- Sales Development, TripActions Scholarship Coord., Heart of Los Angeles
- Senior Financial Consultant, Charles Schwab Solutions Engineer, Mapbox
- Technical Writer, Cognizant
- Transportation Planner, City of Oakland

**Graduate Programs**
- American Studies, PhD
- History, Master's
- Journalism, Master's
- Law, JD
- Physical Therapy, DPT
- Public Health, Master's

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**Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.**