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

HOW TO USE THIS MAP
Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UC Berkeley, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone’s Berkeley experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.

Visit ue.berkeley.edu/majormaps for the latest version of this major map.

CONNECT WITH US

Cal Day
Come to UC Berkeley’s annual Open House in April for information sessions, campus tours, special talks, and more.

Golden Bear Orientation
Join your peers in the campus-wide UC Berkeley orientation program for all new students.

Events
Attend department events with students, faculty, and staff. Visit as.ugis.berkeley.edu for news and updates.

ADVISING
Students can contact the major advisor to schedule an appointment or ask questions at amerstd@berkeley.edu.

Advising Drop-In Hours:
Monday - Friday, 9am-12pm, 1-5pm
AMERICAN STUDIES  
Bachelor of Arts

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

- Jobs and Employers
  - Analyst, Bank of America
  - Associate Editor, Skybridge College Consulting
  - Assoc. Professor, UW-Madison Behavior Therapists, Juvenile
  - Chief Resident in Emergency Medicine, New York-Presbyterian Hospital
  - Corporate Account Executive, GitHub
  - Graphic Designer, AQUIS
  - 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

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

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**FIRST YEAR**
- 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 1 & other lower division prerequisites now or before your third year.

**SECOND YEAR**
- Review your degree progress/courses with a faculty advisor and plan your area of concentration.
- Complete lower division prerequisites and declare the major (required when you complete 60 units).
- Consider enrolling in a “Time” or “Place” course.
- Complete any prerequisites for your area courses.

**THIRD YEAR**
- Focus on upper division requirements in your concentration area.
- Review your degree progress with your faculty, major, and college advisors.
- Browse American Studies graduate profiles for thesis abstracts.

**FOURTH YEAR**
- Review your degree progress with your faculty, major, and college advisors.
- Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate and complete any remaining major, college, and campus requirements.
- Complete your senior thesis.

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