AMERICAN STUDIES, B.A. (CAPITAL)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus

End Campus: Harrisburg

Program Learning Objectives

• To advance the documentation and interpretation of the American experience, past and present, through research with a variety of evidence, including objects, still and moving images, practices and performances, and oral and written texts.
  • To examine multiple forms of evidence including objects, images, events, and texts to identify themes, ideas, patterns, scenes, and sources of American experience in a historical period, geographical and environmental area, or social and cultural group.
  • To build on the intellectual legacy of American Studies as an interdisciplinary movement and emerging discipline with its own theories, methods, and applications.
  • To identify major movements and approaches in the study of the American experience and provide major scholarly bibliographic sources for those movements and approaches, and to discuss causes, consequences, contexts, and correlations of American practices and performances using American Studies methodology such as historical and geographical comparison, symbolic and systematic analysis, ethnography, and rhetorical and literary criticism.
• To prepare students for careers in American Studies by developing knowledge, skills, attitudes, and ethics that can be applied to work in schools, archives, museums, galleries, media organizations, and governmental, commercial, and cultural agencies.
  • To effectively communicate American Studies perspectives in scholarly and public writing, exhibition, community programming, oral presentation, and media presentation.

• Demonstrate analytic skills: Graduates will demonstrate analytical skills such as symbolic analysis, cross-cultural comparison, and ethnographic fieldwork, to interpret meaning in historical, social, cultural, and artistic trends and movements in the United States.

• Demonstrate knowledge through research: Graduates will demonstrate knowledge of the history, society, culture, and arts of the United States by conducting research in accordance with the highest ethical and professional standards and, with a variety of evidence, including objects, still and moving images, practices and performances, and oral and written texts.

• Knowledge of American Studies historiography: Graduates will demonstrate knowledge of American Studies historiography by identifying major movements and approaches in the study of the American experiences and providing major scholarly bibliographic and cultural sources for those movements and approaches.

• Presentation and Communication Skills: Graduates will apply presentation and communication skills used in American Studies scholarship, including oral presentation, writing, and exhibition, to produce material that can be used in educational institutions, heritage and museum organizations, and governmental and cultural agencies.

• Analytical Skills: Graduates will demonstrate skills that encompass varied methods of analysis (i.e. visual, rhetorical, or cross-cultural) and types of evidence (i.e. material, documentary, or ethnographic) to interpret meaning in historical, social, cultural, and artistic trends and movements in the United States.

• Development of presentation and communication skills: Graduates will apply presentation and communication skills used in American Studies scholarship, including oral presentation, writing, and exhibition, to produce material that can be used in educational institutions, heritage and museum organizations, and governmental and cultural agencies.

• Knowledge demonstrated through research: Graduates will demonstrate knowledge of the history, society, culture, and arts of the United States by conducting research in accordance with the highest ethical and professional standards and, with a variety of evidence, including objects, still and moving images, practices and performances, and oral and written texts.

• Knowledge of the American Studies field: Graduates will demonstrate knowledge of American Studies historiography and currents by identifying major movements and approaches in the study of the American experiences and providing major scholarly bibliographic and cultural sources for those movements and approaches.