

AMERICAN STUDIES MAJOR APPLICATION

http://www.wesleyan.edu/amst/for_majors/applicationform.pdf

Name _____ Class of _____

An American Studies major requires 11 courses; Honors candidates must take 12 courses. Use this form as an exercise in planning a path through the American Studies major. Remember that this is a tentative plan; you will be able to change and adapt it as your interests develop. As you work on this form, you may find it useful to consult the rules and regulations on the second page of this form, the AMST website description of concentrations the website listing Hemispheric and Transnational courses, and WesMaps. (Place a check next to courses already taken or in which you are currently enrolled.)

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INTRO TO AMERICAN STUDIES: 1. _____

JUNIOR CORE COURSES

1. Junior Colloquium: _____
2. AMST 200: Colonialism and Its Consequences in the Americas

CONCENTRATION - Specify your area: _____

Identify 4 courses, 201 or above, that constitute your concentration.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

ELECTIVES (3 additional courses, 201 or above)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

SENIOR REQUIREMENT (Seminar, Essay, or Honors Thesis)-Please indicate how you intend to fulfill the senior requirement: _____

Pre-TWENTIETH CENTURY REQUIREMENT-- Identify the course, from the Elective, Concentration, or Senior requirement categories, that meets the requirement for a course that has a majority focus on American culture(s) in the period before 1900: _____

HEMISPHERIC AND TRANSNATIONAL COURSES- Identify the Hemispheric/Transnational courses in your program. These may be from the Elective, Concentration, or Senior requirement categories.

1. _____
2. _____

ADVISOR REQUEST-Advisors are assigned by the Department chair and it is not always possible to honor requests, but if you wish to request a particular member of the American Studies faculty as your major advisor, please indicate here: _____

Requirements and regulations for the American Studies major

1. INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN STUDIES. Majors are required to complete a course subtitle An Introduction to American Studies (AMST 174-177). Transfer students should meet with the department chair to discuss what course taken elsewhere can be offered as substitutes for Wesleyan courses.

2. JUNIOR CORE COURSES. All majors are required to take AMST 200 (Colonialism and Its Consequences in the Americas) and one junior colloquium (AMST 201-210). Substitutes and transfer credits normally do not count toward the colloquium requirement. Students going abroad as juniors and majors declaring late in junior year may postpone one junior core course until senior year. Students choosing to take more than one colloquium may count the second one as an American Studies elective or concentration.

3. CONCENTRATION. A concentration, consisting of four 201-level or above courses, is an individualized program, developed in consultation with an advisor, that explores in detail and aspect of the culture(s) and society of the United States. It may be built around a discipline such as history or literary studies, or it may combine work across disciplines to constitute a field such as cultural studies, race and ethnicity, material/visual culture, or queer studies, or it may focus on a “problematic” such as ecology and culture or politics and culture. (Note that courses need not be cross-listed as AMST courses so long as they focus on the United States.) A single course may count both as part of the concentration and as a Hemispheric courses and Transnational courses, if the nature of the concentration makes that appropriate. Similarly, the concentration may, with the advisor’s approval, include one course outside the Americas that is relevant to the specific concentration.

4. ELECTIVES. Electives may be chosen from among any 201-level or above courses in the Wesleyan curriculum that focus on American culture(s), not just from courses listed as AMST. Courses used to meet the Junior core, Concentration, and Senior requirements may not be counted among the electives. **Studio and basic language courses do not count toward the major.** In selecting electives, make certain the requirements specified below for Hemispheric courses and Transnational courses and pre-Twentieth Century are included either here or within your Concentration or Senior requirement.

5. SENIOR REQUIREMENT. Majors must elect one senior seminar from among AMST seminars numbered 300 and above. Or they can substitute a senior essay (AMST 403 or 404) or senior honors thesis (AMST 409 and 410) for the senior requirement. Candidates for Honors must submit a senior honors thesis.

6. Pre-TWENTIETH CENTURY REQUIREMENT. To ensure chronological breadth of knowledge, majors must take at least one course (it can be among the concentration, electives and senior requirement categories) that has a majority focus on American culture(s) in the period before 1900.

7. HEMISPHERIC AMERICAS and TRANSNATIONAL AMERICAN STUDIES. Majors must integrate a hemispheric/transnational frame of reference into their major by taking two courses that build on the comparative foundation supplied by Colonialism and Its Consequences in the Americas (AMST 200). Hemispheric Americas courses may be chosen from among Latin American Studies offerings, courses on Canadian or Caribbean cultures, and courses that treat the United States within a hemispheric context. Transnational American Studies courses may also be used to meet this requirement. Lists of Hemispheric Americas and Transnational American Studies courses offered each year are available on the AMST website. Courses used to meet this requirement may also, as appropriate, be counted toward concentration, elective or senior seminar requirements. A senior essay or thesis that utilizes a hemispheric or transnational American studies approach may count toward this requirement.

TRANSFER CREDITS: No more than 2 transfer credits, (from study abroad or U.S. institutions), may be counted toward the major, except in the case of transfer students. Courses should be provisionally approved in advance by the faculty advisor or department chair.

GROUP TUTORIALS: Only one group tutorial may be counted toward the major. Group tutorial forms including a detailed syllabus must be submitted to the AMST office by the end of Add/Drop. Group tutorials are not designed to be student-led courses; faculty tutors are not student-led courses; faculty tutors are responsible for content, instruction and evaluation.

STUDENT FORUMS: No student forum course may count toward the major, unless a special exemption is granted by the AMST curriculum committee. The content of proposed courses must fall clearly within American Studies and the course shall not be less substantial and demanding than a regular course.