

## Notes on requirements and regulations for the American Studies major

**1. 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.

**2. CONCENTRATION.** A concentration is an individualized program, developed in consultation with an advisor that explores, in detail, an aspect of the culture(s) and society of the United States.

It may be built around a discipline such as history or literary criticism, or it may combine work across disciplines to constitute a field of study such as cultural studies, ethnic studies or queer studies, or it may focus on a “problematic” such as ecology and culture or politics and culture.

The concentration consists of four 211 level or above courses. (Students may also count a second colloquium from the 201-210 numbered courses). NOTE: 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 Comparative Americas course, if the nature of the concentration makes that appropriate. Similarly, the concentration may, with the advisor’s approval, include a course outside the Americas that is relevant to the specific concentration.

**3. ELECTIVES.** Electives may be chosen from among any 211-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 Comparative Americas and pre-Twentieth Century are included either here or within your Concentration or Senior requirement.

**4. 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. **Senior requirement DOES NOT count toward the concentration or electives.**

**5. Pre-TWENTIETH CENTURY REQUIREMENT.** To ensure chronological breadth of knowledge, majors must take at least one course, among concentration, electives and senior requirement categories, that focuses on American culture(s) in the period before 1900.

**6. COMPARATIVE AMERICAS COURSES.** Majors should integrate a hemispheric frame of reference into their major by taking two courses that build on the comparative foundation supplied by Colonialism and Its Consequences. 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 Comparative Americas context. **A list of courses offered each year that satisfies this requirement is available on the AMST website.** Ordinarily, Comparative Americas courses are among your electives, but if a senior seminar, essay, or thesis is comparative, it may count as a Comparative Americas course.

**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 approved in advance by the faculty advisor or program chair. Students are asked to obtain the required paperwork from the registrar and provide course description and/or syllabus. Transfer credit will be authorized upon official verification student passed the course.

**GROUP TUTORIALS:** No more than one group tutorial may be counted toward the major. Group tutorial applications (consisting of a tutorial form that clearly outlines the structure of the tutorial, including the participation of the tutor, and a detailed syllabus) must be submitted to the AMST office by the end of the Red Add/Drop period. Remember that group tutorials are not designed to be student-led courses; faculty tutors are responsible for content, instruction, evaluation, and regular meetings with students.

**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.