

American Culture Studies

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Majors

The Major in American Culture Studies

Total units required: 32 credits, 24 of which must be at the 300 level or higher.

Visit our Course Listings (<http://amcs.wustl.edu/listing.php>) webpage for a complete list of courses, by semester, that count toward the AMCS major. For more information about the major — including past examples of projects, leadership opportunities and an FAQ — please visit our AMCS undergraduate (<https://amcs.wustl.edu/undergraduate/>) webpage.

Requirements:

- **Introductory Course** (3 credits) as designated by American Culture Studies: Options for this requirement have recently included AMCS 220 Topics in AMCS: Race and American Popular Music, AMCS 206 "Reading" Culture: The Visible and Invisible: Introduction to American Visual Cultures Studies, and AMCS 202 The Immigrant Experience. Visit our Course Listings (<http://amcs.wustl.edu/listing.php>) webpage for additional offerings by semester.
- AMCS 375A: **Methods and Visions** (3 credits): Visit our Course Listings (<http://amcs.wustl.edu/listing.php>) webpage for the current offering as the topic varies by semester.
- **Fieldwork Experience** (3 credits): Enrollment in an approved fieldwork course such as AMCS 479: On Location: Exploring America (<https://amcs.wustl.edu/on-location/>) or completion of a field-based independent project under the guidance of AMCS faculty (in most cases under the course number AMCS 298 Directed Fieldwork in American Culture Studies).
- **General Americanist Course Work** (18 credits): Six courses taken in the following groupings:
 - **Prime Concentration Area Course Work** (9 credits): Three courses in a single concentration, at least two of which must be at the 300 level or higher (refer to "Established Concentration Areas" below).
 - **Distribution Course Work or a Second Concentration Area** (9 credits): Courses taken in three different disciplines or fields ("Distribution") **or** three courses in a second concentration area. At least two of these courses must be at the 300 level or higher.

- **Senior Capstone Project** (3 credits): This multidisciplinary project serves as the culmination of the program's course work and past fieldwork study. Proposed during the spring of the junior year, this 3-credit project is granted academic credit in the fall through AMCS 400A AMCS Capstone Workshop I. Students pursuing the Senior Honors Thesis will earn an additional 3 credits in the spring through AMCS 400B AMCS Capstone Workshop II. The capstone requirement may also be fulfilled within the context of an approved upper-level seminar course. For more information about the capstone project and proposal process, including important dates, please visit the AMCS website (<https://amcs.wustl.edu/capstone/>).
- Two 1-credit workshops: AMCS 490A AMCS Portfolio Workshop: Academic Citizenship and AMCS 490B AMCS Portfolio Workshop: Connections and Explorations, which are taken in the senior fall and spring semesters, respectively (required for the Class of 2022 and beyond).
- At least **two multidisciplinary courses**: Taken as part of the above major requirements and designated by AMCS, this requirement does not usually require additional course work. Students are encouraged to take multidisciplinary courses that connect to the subjects or issues in their concentration area. AMCS 375A and the course taken to fulfill the fieldwork requirement may not also count toward the multidisciplinary requirement.

Additional Information

Established Concentration Areas:

- **Subject Concentration**
 - Race & Ethnicity
 - Gender & Sexuality
 - Ability & the Body
 - Place, Space, & the Environment
 - Popular Culture
 - Citizenship, Nationhood, & Identity
- **Methods Concentration**
 - Archives & Texts
 - Audio, Visual, & Material Studies
 - Journalism & Ethnography
 - Law, Politics, & Policy Studies
 - Digital Methods

AMCS gives majors considerable freedom in defining their course of study, allowing them to learn how cultural study is done in multiple fields and periods even as they define concentration areas in ways that suit their specific interests. Pairing the AMCS major with a second major in a complementary discipline is an especially enriching model of cultural study, and AMCS works closely with students to ensure that double-majoring works well.

Study Abroad: Majors intending to study abroad should consult with the AMCS study abroad advisor well in advance to plan a course of study and discuss its impact on their work in the major (including their fieldwork and capstone projects). For further information, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (<https://amcs.wustl.edu/amcs-undergraduate-faq/>) on our undergraduate page or review the AMCS

approved programs on the Study Abroad (<https://overseas.wustl.edu/study-abroad/>) webpage (by searching for "American Culture Studies" as the "Program Name" in the WUSTL Global Opportunities database (<https://sa.wustl.edu/?FuseAction=Programs.AdvancedSearch>), which can be accessed from the Planning for Study Abroad page (<https://overseas.wustl.edu/plan/>)).

Special Opportunity: Lynne Cooper Harvey Undergraduate

Scholars: Harvey Undergraduate Scholars are vital members of the AMCS community, serving as intellectual leaders and modeling innovative multidisciplinary research. They are asked to share their knowledge with the community in a variety of ways during their time as scholars, including through involvement in a project or initiative that brings them into collaboration with others in the AMCS community. These projects should contribute substantially to the scholars' learning and allow them to actively engage with and bolster all members of the AMCS community. Please visit the Harvey Undergraduate Scholars page (<https://amcs.wustl.edu/lynne-cooper-harvey-undergraduate-scholars/>) for more information.

Senior Honors: Writing an AMCS honors thesis is one way to fulfill the capstone project requirement. It allows students to complete an extended study of a cultural topic with the input of faculty from more than one discipline, and it provides both a support system and an audience of peers for that study. For more information about the honors thesis and capstone project process, including important dates and criteria, please visit our Senior Honors Thesis page (<https://amcs.wustl.edu/major-requirements/#secondary>).