American Culture Studies

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Degree Requirements

Master of Arts in American Culture Studies

Home-based courses in American Culture Studies generally cover material from a range of disciplinary fields and areas. The category of a particular course is determined by the discipline that is most heavily weighted in the class and/or by the nature of the core questions around which the course revolves. The distribution of each home-based course will be noted in its description. The Master of Arts in American Culture Studies is a 30-unit program.

Required Courses: 18 units

Students choose 6 units from each of the following distribution areas:

• Humanities courses from literature, history, religion or philosophy
• Social sciences courses from anthropology, education, economics or political science
• Arts courses from music, art history or theater/film

Electives: 6-9 units

The course AMCS 445 Introduction to American Culture Studies is recommended for all students. Additional electives may be chosen from any distribution area.

Students may, with permission, count a limited number of graduate-level courses from related departments toward their degree.

Writing Intensive & Research Methods Courses

Certain required and elective seminars will be noted as “writing intensive” or “research methods.” These courses are intended to hone graduate-level writing and research techniques to prepare students for their final written projects. Students are required to complete at least one writing intensive course and one research methods course.

Final Written Project: 3-6 units

All students are required to complete a final written project. This project is normally completed during the final semester of the program (or, in some cases, the final year), and it entails substantial research into and analysis of a topic determined by the student in consultation with the program coordinator.