American Culture Studies

The American Culture Studies (AMCS) program in Arts & Sciences at Washington University fosters the multidisciplinary study of the Americas. We promote a pluralistic and transnational view of American historical, social, political, material and cultural contexts. Our approach is theoretically and empirically inclusive, emphasizing the enormous diversity within American society and the wider world. We are especially concerned with issues of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class and other social contrasts that spur so much debate, expression and conflict within the United States and across borders.

We offer one major (American Culture Studies) and two minors (American Culture Studies and Asian American Studies) in our undergraduate program. For undergraduates and graduate students, including the Harvey Graduate Fellows and Harvey Undergraduate Scholars programs, AMCS and Asian American Studies offer diverse curricular opportunities for transdisciplinary study as well as mentoring from faculty in different fields who can support students’ intellectual growth. The AMCS major includes a series of concentration areas such as Ability and the Body; Citizenship, Nationhood, and Identity; Gender and Sexuality; Place, Space, and the Environment; and Race and Ethnicity.

The minor in Asian American Studies is designed to enrich students’ critical understanding of both individual experiences and collective histories of Asian Americans in regional, national and transnational contexts. As an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary program, it underlines transnational contexts and comparative perspectives for the study of Asian American experiences.

Above all else, our aim is to foster expansive and critical perspectives and understandings of the historical, social and cultural dimensions of life across the Americas.

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