



Childe Hassam (1859-1935)

WHAT IS AMERICAN STUDIES?

A major in American Studies offers students the opportunity to explore the experiences and values of the people of the United States as embodied in their history, literature, politics, art, and other enduring forms of cultural expression. American Studies takes advantage of our location in New York by involving students with the life of the city, working with community service organizations such as the Roger Lehecka Double Discovery Center, and by inviting leading figures on the New York political and cultural scene to participate in classroom activities and public events.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

A major in American Studies can open doors to many careers as well as to graduate or professional school. A number of our students, for example, develop a thematic concentration centered on the media that can take them into journalism, publishing, and other related areas. An interdisciplinary major like American Studies, in combination with your general education through the Columbia Core Curriculum, can also lead to opportunities in non-profit organizations or public affairs. Over the last few years, our majors have gone on to Ph.D. programs, law and medical school, business, government and public-service organizations, as well as other post-college programs like Teach-for-America.

DECLARING THE MAJOR

Although students generally declare their major or concentration in the spring of their sophomore year, you may want to take electives early on in areas that interest you and will later connect with the American Studies major.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Students may choose American Studies as an undergraduate major or a minor.

THE MAJOR

A minimum of nine courses is required to complete the major:

- **One American Studies Core course:**
AMST UN1010: Introduction to American Studies.
- **Two seminars in American Studies**
- **Four Additional Courses** from other departments, including one course in American history before 1865 and one America-focused course in CSER or AAADS.
- **Senior Research Project:**
The final requirement for the major in American Studies is completion of a senior thesis, for which students enroll in the Senior Thesis seminar in the fall and the spring of their senior year. Alternatively, students may fulfill this requirement by taking both an additional course and an additional seminar requiring a major paper.

THE MINOR

A minimum of five courses is required to complete the minor:

- **One American Studies Core course:** AMST UN1010:
Introduction to American Studies
- **One seminar in American Studies**
- **Three Additional Courses** on American history, culture, or politics from the center or other departments.

ADVISING

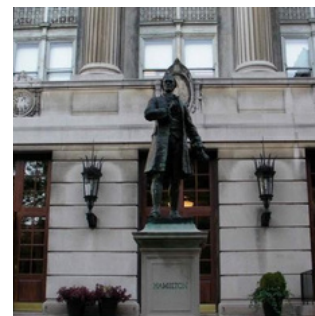
Because we offer an interdisciplinary curriculum, students design their own courses of study. Students work with our advisors to develop programs tailored to their particular interests. Advisors approve the Major or Minor plan of study forms and provide general guidance regarding the major and concentration. Each student is expected to meet with an advisor at least once a semester.

OUR ADVISORS

Jeremy Dauber (jad213)

Robert Amdur (rla2)

Maura Spiegel (mls37)



Hamilton Hall Room 319
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Feel free to contact Associate Director Robert Amdur (rla2) or visit our website americanstudies.columbia.edu