

Emphasis Plan Worksheet

Your **emphasis** is the particular focus or area of concentration you choose within your American studies major. The courses you choose should come from two or more departments or programs. Only 4 units of AMS 192 (internship) may be counted toward the major. You may also choose to do a **Senior Thesis/Capstone Project (AMS 190A)** for four units and take the remaining 16 units as coursework.

It is helpful to start thinking of what emphasis you might want to pursue within American studies as you plan out the courses you will take to fulfill your degree requirements. As you fill out your degree worksheet, you should note particular classes that you might take to fulfill your emphasis and your area of focus. This emphasis is not set in stone, however, as interesting classes may arise and you may find your areas of interest changing as you pursue your degree. When and if this happens, however, you should consult with the AMS program coordinator and your advisor write up a new worksheet that reflects those changes. **Upon graduation, the most current Emphasis Plan needs to be on file before you can be certified as having met your major requirements.**

Your emphasis plan is a written narrative of your reasons for choosing your area of focus within American studies and the courses you have taken to meet your emphasis. It should follow this format:

Title: _____

Courses taken – the 5 **upper division** classes addressing your emphasis theme/topic:

Written narrative (approximately 2 pages) of why you chose to pursue this emphasis.

Some questions you might consider in your narrative include: What makes this topic the "center" of your American studies education. Why is this particular focus important to study? How did these five courses collectively allow you to learn something particular about U.S. culture? Spend at least two sentences describing what was covered in each of the courses that make up your emphasis and how each course contributed to your emphasis area knowledge. It may be helpful to note one specific thing you gained from class (from a particular class discussion or lecture, assignment, or reading).

Email your plan to the faculty advisor, **Professor Ryan Cartwright** (rcartwright@ucdavis.edu), who will approve it and forward it to the program coordinator or return it to you for revision.