

SUGGESTED EMPHASES FOR AMERICAN STUDIES

(These are suggestions only; other topics are possible)

Visual & Oral Communication: Film, TV, Music

This emphasis teaches students to analyze the mass media industries of radio, television, video and film. Students may want to combine AMS with a second major or minor in Film Studies or Technocultural Studies.

Possible courses for this emphasis might include:

AMS Electives (12 units)

AMS 130 - American Popular Culture

AMS 156 - Race, Culture and Society in the United States

AMS 158 - Technology and the Modern American Body

Emphasis classes (20 units)

HIS 176B - Social & Cultural History of the United States

ASA 140 - Asian Americans & the Media

SOC 155 - Mass Communication

WMS 162 - Feminist Film Theory & Criticism

FMS 127 - Film Theory

Youth Cultures and Education

This emphasis prepares students to enter teaching credential programs for primary or secondary grades. Those seeking a secondary (single subject) credential should take American Studies with a disciplinary major or minor.

Courses for a primary program might include:

AMS Electives (12 units)

AMS 130 - American Popular Culture

AMS 152 - Lives of Children in America

AMS 153 - Individual and Community in America

Emphasis classes (20 units)

EDU 110 - Educational Psychology

EDU 120 - Philosophical & Social Foundations of Education

HIS 174C - The United States since World War II

SOC 124 - Sociology of Education

ENL 180 - Children's Literature

Culture & Consumption

This emphasis provides a background in the cultural contexts of consumerism and consumption in the United States, which may help in marketing, business and law school.

Courses for this focus might include:

AMS Electives (12 units)

AMS 125 - Corporate Cultures

AMS 153 - Individual & Community in the United States

AMS 155 - Symbols & Rituals: Eating in America

Emphasis classes (20 units)

HIS 176B - Social & Cultural History of the United States

SOC 125 - Sociology of Culture

SOC 139 - Corporations & Society

CMN 143 - Analysis of Media Messages

PSY 151 - Social Psychology

Law and Society

This emphasis prepares the pre-law student to understand the broader cultural contexts for the law, for rights debates in the United States, and for relationships between the legal system and other cultural systems.

Courses for this emphasis might include:

AMS Electives (12 units)

AMS 101G - Environmental Justice

AMS 125 - Corporate Cultures

AMS 153 - The Individual and Community in America

Emphasis classes (20 units)

(The senior thesis (8 units) is recommended for pre-law students)

HIS 174C - The United States since World War II

POL 155 - Judicial Process and Behavior

SOC 155 - Sociology of the Law

WMS 140 - Gender and Law

POL 122 - International Law

Food & Health

This emphasis supports students entering the fields of food studies, healthcare, or nutrition

Courses for this emphasis might include:

AMS Electives (12 units)

AMS 155 - Symbols & Rituals: Eating in America

AMS 157 - Animals in U.S. Culture

AMS 153 - Individual and Community in America

Emphasis Courses (20 units)

AMS 101C - Food & Health in the U.S.

AMS/TCS 158 - Technology & the Modern American Body

ASA 171 - Health Issues Confronting Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders

NUT 120BN - Nutritional Geography

SOC 154 - Sociology of Health Care

Social Identities: Race, Ethnicity & Gender

This emphasis is a good foundation for students planning to work in community-based organizations, or who plan to go on to graduate work in a related field.

Courses for this focus might include:

AMS Electives (12 units)

AMS 139 - Feminist Cultural Studies

AMS 153 - The Individual and Community in America

AMS 156 - Race, Culture & Society in the U.S.

Emphasis Courses (20 units)

AMS 154 - Lives of Men in America

ANT 128B -Self, Identity and Family

AAS 100 - Survey of Ethnicity in the U.S.

SOC 172 - Ideology of Class, Race & Gender

ASA 111 - Ethnicity, Culture & the Self

Nature/Culture/Environment

This emphasis allows the student to examine the interaction of culture and nature. It would be a good complement to a second major or minor in ecology or other environmental focus. This would be good preparation if you want to work at a non-profit or go to graduate school.

Courses for this focus might include:

AMS Electives (12 units)

- AMS 151 - Landscapes & Places
- AMS 101H - Ecology of Beauty
- AMS 157 - Animals in U.S. Culture

Emphasis Courses

- AMS 101G - Environmental Justice
- NAC 100 - The Culture of Nature
- NAC 130 - The Nature of Exploration
- ERS 121 - Water & Society
- ESP 102 - Cultural Ecology

Marketing, Advertising, Business

This emphasis provides a background in the cultural contexts of business in the United States.

Courses for this focus might include:

AMS Electives (12 units)

- AMS 125 - Corporate Cultures
- AMS 153 - Individual & Community in the U.S.
- AMS 155 - Symbols & Rituals: Eating in America

Emphasis classes (20 units)

- HIS 176B - Social & Cultural History of the United States
- SOC 125 - Sociology of Culture
- SOC 139 - Corporations & Society
- CMN 143 - Analysis of Media Messages
- PSY 151 - Social Psychology