

American Studies Program

AMST CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The American Studies Program is the oldest and one of the largest interdisciplinary programs in the College. It is also one of the most flexible majors in the College, attracting highly independent and curious students who want to pursue research questions that cross disciplines and departments. Unlike other majors in the College, American Studies is a 6-semester major. This means that students begin their American Studies coursework in the Fall of their Sophomore year. This builds an intellectual community and prepares students for a senior thesis project – two unique and important aspects of Georgetown’s American Studies major.

(Key: FY = First Year SO = Sophomore JR = Junior SR = Senior)

History Courses (2 required) – ideally take as a FY or SO

AMST students take two history courses to offer background and context to their other core courses. HIST 180 (Fall) and HIST 181 (Spring) are the default recommendations, but you may choose from other pre-approved alternatives that fall into this range: HIST 180-199, 280-299. Ideally (if courses align), students are encouraged to choose one history course that covers pre-1865 and one that covers post-1865 America. We recommend (but do not require) that you fulfill your history requirement as a FY or SO. As you get into your JR and SR years, you will want to take other history courses as electives. Study abroad courses cannot count towards these history requirements, as it is important that students work with Georgetown faculty.

American Civilization (Civ) I and II (both required) – take as a SO

These core courses are designed for SO who are very interested in pursuing the AMST major. Civ I is offered in the Fall; Civ II is offered in the Spring. Courses will help create and foster an intellectual community among AMST students and core AMST faculty, as well as introduce students to a broad range of approaches, interdisciplinary lenses, and historical time periods relevant to the field of American Studies.

American Civilization (Civ) III (1 required) – take as a JR

These core courses are designed to build upon Civ I and II. Fall and Spring options will allow JRs to study abroad and still take their Civ III during their JR year. Because Civ III courses also count as AMST Electives, you may take as many as you like, as long as you take at least one during your JR year.

American Civilization (Civ) IV (1 required) – take as a JR

The portfolio of Civ IV course options are designed by AMST core faculty to allow JRs to continue learning about the field of American Studies in more specialized ways. In these courses JRs will have the opportunity to partake in assignments that will help them prepare for the development of a senior thesis proposal. Fall and Spring options will allow JRs to study abroad and still take at least one Civ IV during their JR year. Because Civ IV courses also count as AMST Electives, you may take as many as you like, as long as you take at least one during your JR year.

AMST Electives (6 required; recommend 2 of the 6 come from the “Special AMST Electives” list) – take as a FY, SO, JR, or SR

AMST Electives allow you to follow your interests, develop expertise in areas potentially relevant for your senior thesis project, and build relationships with potential senior thesis advisers. As you choose courses, you will be shaping a ‘concentration’ that is uniquely suited to your interests. As such, we encourage you to think creatively about your courses. Challenge yourself to take courses outside of your comfort zone. Consider approaching your areas of interest from different vantage points.

Electives may come from three different venues:

- 1) Special AMST Electives – We recommend you choose at least two of these, as they are courses taught by AMST core faculty and often designed with AMST students in mind.
- 2) Cross-listed Courses – Choose AMST Electives from the 60+ cross-listed courses each semester.
- 3) Study Abroad – We encourage AMST students to study abroad. You may count up to 2 courses as AMST Electives from a semester study abroad experience (with special approval). Please talk with our Program Manager, Colva Weissenstein, for ideas, information, and course-transfer criteria.

Senior Thesis I and II (required) – take SR year

The senior thesis is a hallmark of Georgetown’s American Studies Program. You become a scholar with depth of expertise in an area of particular interest to you. This is a wonderful complement to the broad-based liberal arts education you receive, and is often what sets American Studies majors apart from others in the professional world and/or graduate school.

NOTE: Prioritizing Courses for Pre-Registration

AMST majors get priority over non-AMST majors in courses that have an AMST prefix during pre-registration. Declare the major as soon as you are ready, in order to receive this benefit, but continue to prioritize your courses in order of need and want. Sophomores should not prioritize Civ II and seniors should not prioritize Senior Thesis, as these course enrollments are by instructor permission.

American Studies Program

FACULTY

We recommend that you take courses from and engage with the following faculty members who are part of the American Studies Program. We are an interdisciplinary group who hail from different departments and approach the field of American Studies through different lenses. Individually, and collectively, these are the professors who will serve as formal and informal mentors to you as you navigate the program. Get to know them, as they may help you decide on courses to take, introduce you to professors who may have similar interests, and work with you to brainstorm senior thesis research project ideas.

- Anna Celenza, American Studies and Performing Arts/Music
- Marcia Chatelain, American Studies and History
- Bernard Cook, American Studies and Film & Media Studies
- Brian Hochman, American Studies and English
- Tad Howard, American Studies
- Stephen Lane, American Studies
- Sherry Linkon, American Studies and English
- Ricardo Ortiz, American Studies and English
- Seth Perlow, American Studies, Film & Media Studies, and English
- Adam Rothman, American Studies and History
- Erika Seamon, American Studies (Director)
- Lisa Strong, American Studies, Art History and Museum Studies
- Colva Weissenstein, American Studies (Program Manager)

The American Studies Program also has a list of Affiliated Faculty from departments and programs across the university. These are people who have played important roles in the American Studies Program in the past and/or do scholarly work that is particularly suited to the field of American Studies. Many of our cross-listed courses will allow you work with these professors.