

# BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH A MAJOR IN AMERICAN STUDIES

The Department of American Studies fosters a dynamic interdisciplinary learning environment focused on understanding the culture, beliefs, policies, politics, urbanization, and history of the United States and its role in the world. Through a rigorous curriculum, internationally recognized professors challenge students to uncover fresh perspectives on the United States and teach them how to analyze an array of cultural forms—from YouTube to urban spaces to policy documents.

GW's long-standing ties with the Smithsonian Institution and other organizations within the nation's capital immerse students in unique experiences relating to historic preservation, museum curation, social politics, and more. Alumni have achieved success in professions from law to nonprofit advocacy, in culturally focused productions—from film to the web—and in the management of cultural resources— from museums to historic sites.

Visit the program website (<https://americanstudies.columbian.gwu.edu/>) for more information.

## ADMISSIONS

For information about the admission process, including deadlines, visit the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website (<https://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/>). Applications can be submitted via the Common Application (<https://go.gwu.edu/commonapp/>).

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions  
The George Washington University  
800 21st St NW Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20052

For questions visit [undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us](http://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us) (<http://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us/>).

## REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Undergraduate Programs (<http://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationstext>).

The program-specific curriculum.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required</b>		
AMST 2010	Early American Cultural History	
AMST 2011	Modern American Cultural History	
AMST 3900	Critiquing Culture	

AMST 3901	Examining America
AMST 4500W	Proseminar in American Studies
<b>Electives</b>	
Five courses (15 credits) selected from the following. No more than two of these courses may be at the 1000 level.	
AMST 1000	Dean's Seminar
AMST 1050	Explorations in American Culture
AMST 1070	The American Cinema
AMST 1100	Politics and Film
AMST 1160	Race, Gender, and Law
AMST 1200	The Sixties in America
AMST 2000	Sophomore Colloquium
AMST 2020	Washington, DC: History, Culture, and Politics
or AMST 2020W	Washington, DC: History, Culture, and Politics
AMST 2071	Introduction to the Arts in America
AMST 2120W	Freedom in American Thought and Popular Culture
AMST 2125	Varieties of Feminist Theory
AMST 2144	Explorations in Historical Geography
AMST 2210	The African American Experience
AMST 2320	U.S. Media and Cultural History
AMST 2350	U.S. Religion and Politics
AMST 2380	Sexuality in U.S. History
AMST 2385	Sex and Citizenship
or AMST 2385W	Sex and Citizenship
AMST 2410	Modern U.S. Immigration
or AMST 2410W	Modern U.S. Immigration
AMST 2430	Capitalism and Culture
AMST 2440	The American City
or AMST 2440W	The American City
AMST 2490	Themes in U.S. Cultural History
or AMST 2490W	Themes in U.S. Cultural History
AMST 2495	Special Topics in African American History

AMST 2520	American Architecture I
AMST 2521	American Architecture II
AMST 2533	Material Culture in America
AMST 2600	U.S. Popular Music and Culture
AMST 2610	Science, Technology, and Politics in Modern America
or AMST 2610W	Science, Technology, and Politics in Modern America
AMST 2620	Human Mind and Artificial Intelligence
AMST 2630	Discovering the Mind
AMST 2680W	Hashtag America
AMST 2710	The United States in the World
AMST 2730	World War II in History and Memory
or AMST 2730W	World War II in History and Memory
AMST 2750W	Latinos in the United States
AMST 3324	U.S. Urban History
AMST 3351	U.S. Social History
AMST 3352	U.S. Women's History to 1865
or AMST 3352W	U.S. Women's History to 1865
AMST 3353	U.S. Women's History II
AMST 3360	African American History to 1865
AMST 3361	African American History Since 1865
AMST 3362	African American Women's History
or AMST 3362W	African American Women's History
AMST 3367	The American Jewish Experience
AMST 3600	Popular Music and Politics
AMST 3625	Ethnographic and Historical Perspectives on Data Ethics
AMST 3810	Planning Cities
AMST 3811	Historical Archaeology
AMST 3835	Historical Archaeology Field Program
AMST 3950	Special Topics
or AMST 3950W	Special Topics

AMST 4701W	Epidemics in American History
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AMST 4702W	Race, Medicine, and Public Health
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## GENERAL EDUCATION

In addition to the University General Education Requirement (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/>), undergraduate students in Columbian College must complete a further, College-specific general education curriculum—Perspective, Analysis, Communication (G-PAC) (<https://advising.columbian.gwu.edu/general-education-curriculum-gpac/>) as well as the course CCAS 1001 First-Year Experience. Together with the University General Education Requirement, G-PAC engages students in active intellectual inquiry across the liberal arts. Students achieve a set of learning outcomes that enhance their analytical skills, develop their communication competencies, and invite them to participate as responsible citizens who are attentive to issues of culture, diversity, and privilege.

**Coursework (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/#generaleducationtext>) for the University General Education Requirement is distributed as follows:**

- One course in critical thinking in the humanities.
- Two courses in critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, or scientific reasoning in the social sciences.
- One course that has an approved oral communication component.
- One course in quantitative reasoning (must be in mathematics or statistics).
- One course in scientific reasoning (must be in natural and/or physical laboratory sciences).
- UW 1020 University Writing
- After successful completion of UW 1020, 6 credits distributed over at least two writing in the discipline (WID) courses taken in separate semesters. WID courses are designated by a "W" appended to the course number.

**Coursework for the CCAS G-PAC requirement is distributed as follows:**

- Arts—one approved arts course that involves the study or creation of artwork based on an understanding or interpretation of artistic traditions or knowledge of art in a contemporary context.
- Global or cross-cultural perspective—one approved course that analyzes the ways in which institutions, practices, and problems transcend national and regional boundaries.
- Local or civic engagement—one approved course that develops the values, ethics, disciplines, and commitment to pursue responsible public action.
- Natural or physical science—one additional approved laboratory course that employs the process of scientific inquiry (in addition

to the one course in this category required by the University General Education Requirement).

- Humanities—one additional approved humanities course that involves critical thinking skills (in addition to the one course in this category required by the University General Education Requirement).
- CCAS 1001 First-Year Experience

**Certain courses are approved to fulfill GPAC requirements in more than one category.**

Courses taken in fulfillment of G-PAC requirements can also be counted toward majors or minors. Transfer courses taken prior to, but not after, admission to George Washington University can count toward the University General Education Requirement and G-PAC, if those transfer courses are equivalent to GW courses that have been approved by the University and the College.

Lists of approved courses in the above categories are included on each undergraduate major's (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#majorstext>) page in this Bulletin.

## SPECIAL HONORS

In addition to the general requirements stated under University Regulations, in order to be considered for graduation with Special Honors in American Studies, a major must receive a grade of A on the senior paper written for AMST 4500 Proseminar in American Studies.

## COMBINED PROGRAM

### Combined program

- Dual Bachelor of Arts with a major in American studies and Master of Arts in the field of American studies (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/american-studies/combined-ba-ma/>)