

The University of  
**KANSAS**



► **THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM.** Most other American studies programs focus only on history and literature. KU's program, however, is much broader and emphasizes a breadth of courses and interests that are connected to a study of America and American society. The program stresses the importance of the diverse issues affecting culture and contemporary society.

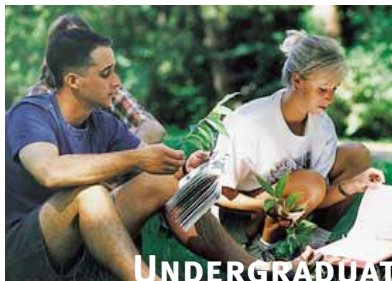


KU MEDICAL CENTER IN KANSAS CITY



STUDY ABROAD

► **THE AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM** is small and attracts students who like being challenged by differing viewpoints and enjoy active, small-group discussions. You will get to know the faculty members and work closely with your adviser to develop a personal program of study. Your research and writing project will develop thinking and writing skills for advanced studies or a career.



OUTSTANDING PROG



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

*Breadth of Education*



EXCELLENT FACULTY AND STUDENTS



**UNDERGRADUATE STUDY**

**American Studies**

**I**s American studies for me? To find out, ask yourself: Am I interested in American society and the various issues and ideas that have shaped it? Does it excite me to think about examining America from viewpoints as diverse as Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*, William Buckley's conservative politics, and rap music? Am I adventuresome? Do I like to hear a variety of opinions? Do I believe there are many ways to study an issue?

**What is American studies?** American studies is an interdisciplinary program in KU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Historians, sociologists, artists, musicians, architects, and philosophers have all had something to say about America and have different ideas about what America was, is, and looks like. By looking at American life and culture from a variety of disciplines, students learn to understand life in the United States better.

In addition to its broad approach to studying America, the program offers students an opportunity to create unique and individual programs of study that reflect their interests and career goals.

**What degrees are offered?** The American Studies Program offers both Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and Bachelor of General Studies (B.G.S.) degrees. Both degrees require a generous sampling

of courses in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. Students working for a B.A. also are required to take courses in a foreign language. Most students in the program work toward a B.A. The program also offers a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree for students who want to go on for advanced studies.

**What will my program of study be like?** You will need 124 hours to earn your degree. Within the 36 hours required for the American studies major, you will have great flexibility. The program has few specific requirements, so the courses you select will reflect your interests. Each student

takes two of the three basic introductory courses: Understanding America, The American People, or American Society. Students also take three courses for a historical perspective of the United States and one course in cross-cultural studies such as Latin American or Caribbean studies.

You will also take a two-course sequence in a seminar and tutorial that will end with an independent study project. During these two courses you will select a professor whose specialty interests you and who will work closely with you to develop and direct your project. Your research will conclude with a thesis paper. If you meet the College's honors requirements

and have a grade-point average of at least a 3.25 overall, your research thesis can become your honors project.

Each student also selects four courses to create an area of special emphasis. Categories for special emphasis include race, ethnic groups, gender, sex roles, community, religion, political culture, art and architecture, music, popular culture, family life, Great Plains culture, social theory, social organization, and business, the economy, and work. With advising and approval you can also create your own area of emphasis.

**Can I double-major?** At least half of the students majoring in American studies are double majors. Because of American studies' flexibility, students frequently choose a second major from a related field such as history, English, religious studies, sociology, political science, African studies, psychology, Latin American studies, and many others.

Let your interests and career goals guide you in selecting a double major. Because American studies is interdisciplinary and includes courses from many departments, it's possible, with careful planning, even to earn a triple major.

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*A department of the  
College of Liberal Arts  
& Sciences 2001-03*

Photography by University Relations staff: R. Steve Dick, Kelly Heese, Doug Koch, David McKinney, and Elissa Monroe. Study abroad photo by Ted Noravong. Drawing of Spooner Hall courtesy of School of Architecture and Urban Design.



Aaron Paden/KU University Relations

*Professor Norm Yetman, Chair of the American Studies Program, offers undergraduate courses on American racial and ethnic relations.*

**What courses will I take my first year?** The American Studies Program is within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, called the College or CLAS. First-year students in the College take English composition, math, and courses that fulfill general education requirements. The CLAS chapter of the *Undergraduate Catalog* gives more detailed information.

**How do I get into the program?** The American Studies Program has no entrance requirements. As a first-year student, you will automatically be enrolled in the College, so you can begin taking courses toward your major in your first semester. You aren't required to submit a formal application to the program. You become

a major when you fill out a major declaration form in the program office.

**What kind of job can I get?** You won't find a listing of American studies jobs in the want ads, but your career paths and opportunities will be as varied as your interests. Your job prospects will depend on where you want to live, whether you earn a double major, and how successful you are at combining the thinking, writing and speaking skills you've developed with the jobs that interest you.

Your knowledge of American society and culture will prepare you for a career in journalism, business, education, public service, federal, state, or local government, or for advanced studies in medicine or law. Many students

*If you are earning a B.A. in American studies, your first year's schedule may look something like this:*

First semester	Hours
ENGL 101 Composition	3
MATH 101 Algebra	3
AM S 100 Understanding America	3
SPAN 104 Elementary Spanish I	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>
Second semester	Hours
ENGL 102 Composition and Literature	3
MATH 105 Introduction to Topics in Mathematics	3
BIOL 100 Principles of Biology Lecture	3
BIOL 102 Principles of Biology Laboratory	2
SPAN 108 Elementary Spanish II	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>

go on to graduate school as a way to prepare for specialized careers or college teaching and research. Your courses in American studies may be used to fulfill teaching licensure requirements in history and social science.

**Can I get a scholarship?**

For information about scholarships based on academic merit, diversity, major, and residence, write or call the University of Kansas, Office of Admissions and Scholarships,



Aaron Paden/KU University Relations

*Professor Cheryl Lester is Director of Graduate Studies and teaches courses in American literature and culture for both the American Studies Program and the Department of English.*

KU Visitor Center, 1502 Iowa Street, Lawrence, KS 66045-7576, (785) 864-3911, [www.admissions.ku.edu](http://www.admissions.ku.edu).

For information about grants, loans, and other need-based financial aid, write or call KU's Office of Student Financial Aid, Strong Hall, 1450 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 50, Lawrence, KS 66045-7535, (785) 864-4700.

**Where can I get more information?** For more information about the American Studies Program, courses, advising, and careers contact the University of Kansas, American Studies Program, Wescoe Hall, 1445 Jayhawk Blvd.,

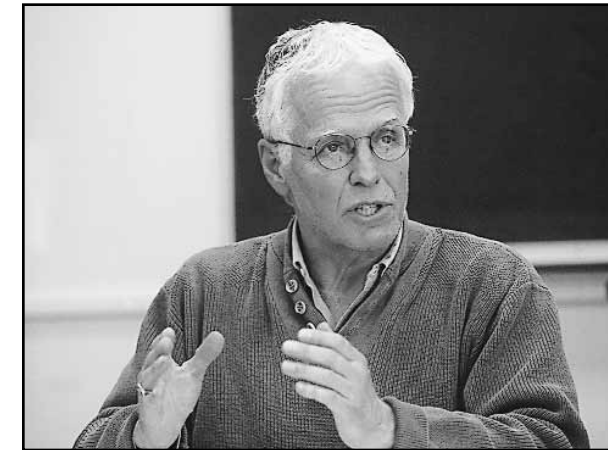
Room 2120, Lawrence, KS 66045-7590, (785) 864-4011, e-mail: [amerst@ku.edu](mailto:amerst@ku.edu), [www.ku.edu/~amerst](http://www.ku.edu/~amerst).

**What if my interests change after I come to KU?** You may decide on a degree in a department or program that contributes to American studies, such as philosophy, political science, history, or women's studies. The courses you take for your American studies major will count toward the requirements for other majors. KU has hundreds of programs and courses to choose from. One of them will lead you toward a major and a career.



Scott Harper/KU University Relations

*Professor Ann Schofield teaches women's history courses in American studies and in the University Scholars Program.*



Aaron Paden/KU University Relations

*Professor William M. Tuttle Jr. is Director of Undergraduate Studies and a leading scholar of recent American history, a subject on which he teaches several courses.*

**With so many American studies programs in the country, why should I choose KU?**

► **THE FACULTY.** The program's core faculty members reflect varied research interests: history, literature, women's studies, sociology, race and ethnicity, popular culture, music, gender, queer theory, post-colonial theory, vernacular architecture, globalization, and many others. The program includes courses from almost 60 other faculty members with interests from African-American literature to jazz and from North American Indians to theatre and film and contemporary art. This ensures a breadth and depth to your program.

► **KU ENRICHMENT.** The university's excellent faculty and its rich curriculum have attracted national attention. You will meet faculty members and students from around the world and will choose from hundreds of KU lectures, plays, concerts, and social and educational activities that will make your college years more rewarding and enjoyable. Concerts and shows in KU's Lied Center Series bring many of the finest national performers to campus.

If you would like information on other majors at KU, contact the University of Kansas, Office of Admissions and Scholarships, KU Visitor Center, 1502 Iowa St., Lawrence, KS 66045-7576. Telephone (785) 864-3911; fax: (785) 864-5017. E-mail: [adm@ku.edu](mailto:adm@ku.edu) Web site: [www.admissions.ku.edu](http://www.admissions.ku.edu)

The University of Kansas is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action institution, committed to a policy of equal opportunity in admissions, financial assistance, and employment.