

American Studies is an interdisciplinary field that explores the diverse cultural and social life of the United States in local, national, and transnational contexts. We provide a space for students to discover varied perspectives on what it means to be American, drawing from faculty versed in literary criticism, history, musicology, art history, and ethnic and gender studies.

American Studies students are curious, critical thinkers who are encouraged to ask how social and cultural forces shape their own and others' identities, and their place in the larger mosaic of American society. In American Studies classes, you will engage in close analysis of immigrant novels, slave narratives, and the Constitution; conduct field work in your own communities; interview your neighbors to collect oral histories; and gain a deep understanding of U.S. history, society, and the arts from before Christopher Columbus to after President Barack Obama.



Photo credit: "Demonstrators sit, with their feet in the Reflecting Pool, during the March on Washington, 1963" by Warren K. Leffler (cover); "Suffrage envoys from San Francisco greeted in New Jersey on their way to Washington to present a petition to Congress Suffrage envoys from San Francisco greeted containing more than 500,000 signatures" by unknown photographer

Want to know more?

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AMERICAN STUDIES

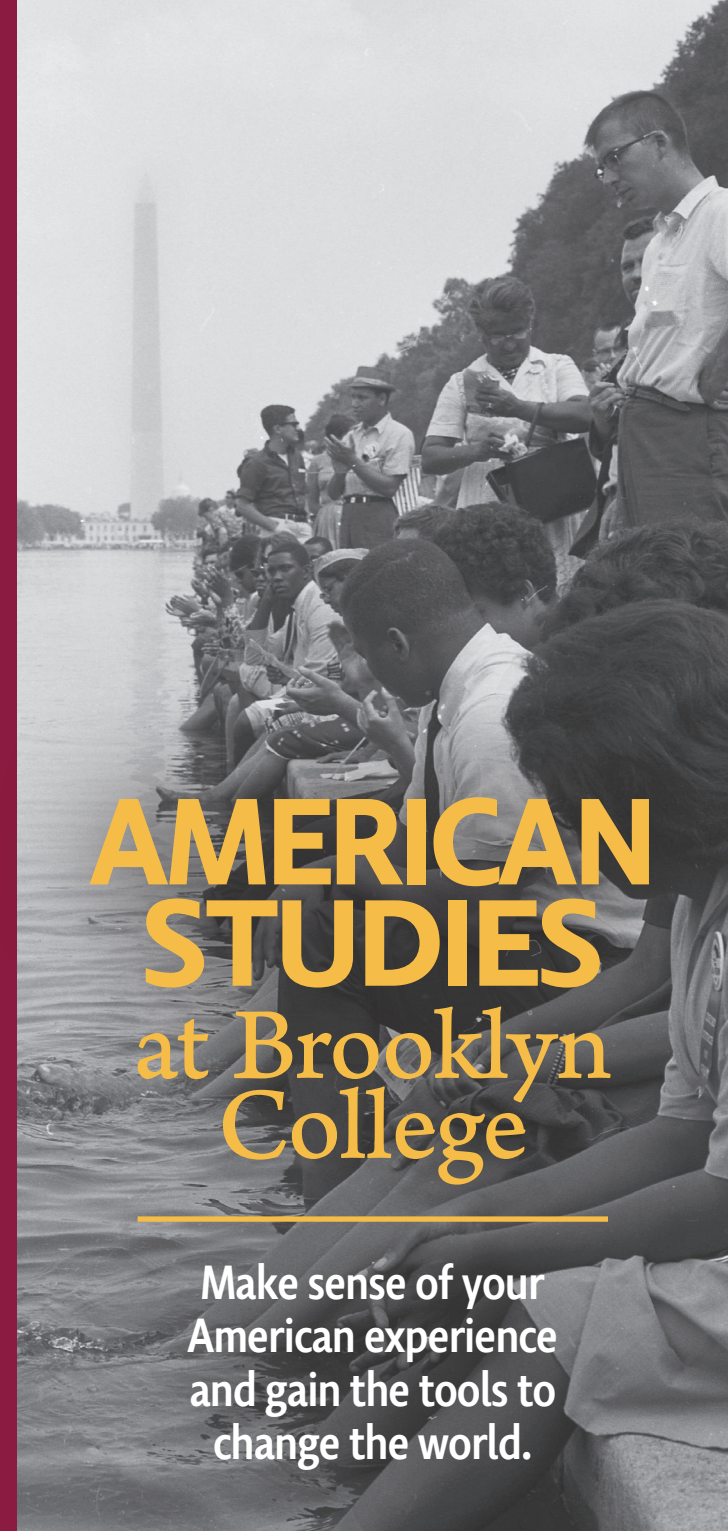
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Brooklyn College | American Studies

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Brooklyn, NY 11210



AMERICAN STUDIES at Brooklyn College

Make sense of your American experience and gain the tools to change the world.

Why American Studies?

The flexibility of American Studies allows you to pursue your own particular interests and encourages unconventional thinking, while our core electives and individualized advising give your academic program coherence, balance, and depth. As an American Studies student, you will learn cutting-edge, critical methods for analyzing national, cultural, and individual identity, as well as explore questions of social justice, rights, and equality. Our aim is to help you see U.S. culture and the larger world in holistic ways, so you can articulate your own vision of citizenship and leadership. Our integrative approach to understanding American culture within and beyond national borders will prepare you to thrive in an increasingly complex and globally connected 21st-century world.

What can you do with an American Studies degree?

The inventive, interdisciplinary nature of American Studies throws open doors to a wide range of futures. American Studies graduates are creative, critical thinkers who go on to become writers, teachers, policy makers, lawyers, arts and museum administrators, editors, activists, and more. Surveys and research show that the key skills we teach—writing, communication, research, and critical problem-solving—are the ones employers are looking for, and will prepare you for long-term career success. Our graduates are change makers, working to shape American society and institutions in fields as diverse as the students themselves.

Faculty

Our award-winning faculty members come from departments across the humanities, social sciences, and arts.

Full-time faculty include:

Ray Allen (Conservatory of Music)

Moustafa Bayoumi (English)

Dale Byam (Africana Studies)

Prudence Cumberbatch (Africana Studies)

George Cunningham (Africana Studies)

James Davis (English)

Joseph Entin (English)

David Grubbs (Conservatory of Music)

Geoffrey Minter (English)

Philip Napoli (History)

Michael Rawson (History)

Jeanne Theoharis (Political Science)

Jocelyn Wills (History)



Courses

HISTORY AND CULTURAL STUDIES

AMERICAN IDENTITIES (AMST 1010)

AMERICAN DREAMS AND REALITIES (AMST 3108)

THE FRONTIER IN AMERICAN CULTURE (AMST 3102)

RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE IN AMERICA (AMST 3106)

DECADE IN CRISIS: THE 1960s (AMST 3212)

AMERICAN POPULAR CULTURE (AMST 3406)

CRITICAL RACE, GENDER, AND PERFORMANCE STUDIES

READING RACE (AMST 3306)

THE POLITICS OF RACE AND NATION (AMST 3107)

PERFORMING BLACKNESS (AMST 3709)

DIGITAL LIFE STORIES: CHICANA/LATINA TESTIMONIO
(AMST 3310)

**PERFORMING AMERICA: NATION, IDENTITY AND
THE ARTS** (AMST 3708)

LITERATURE, MUSIC AND FOLKLORE

**THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE IN LITERATURE, FILM, AND
PHOTOGRAPHY** (AMST 3304)

TRANSNATIONAL AMERICA (AMST 3307)

PRIVATE LIVES: AMERICAN AUTOBIOGRAPHY (AMST 3302)

NEW YORK CITY FOLKLORE (AMST 3404)

MUSIC OF THE UNITED STATES (AMST 3702)

POPULAR MUSIC AND TECHNOLOGY (AMST 3706)

AMERICAN STUDIES DEGREE OPTIONS

B.A. IN AMERICAN STUDIES (39 credits)

MINOR IN AMERICAN STUDIES (15 credits)

MINOR IN AMERICAN MUSIC AND CULTURE (15 credits)

**CONCENTRATION FOR STUDENTS MAJORING IN EARLY
CHILDHOOD AND CHILDHOOD EDUCATION** (30 credits)