AMERICAN STUDIES, POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE

The Department of American Studies (https://www.slu.edu/arts-and-sciences/american-studies/) at Saint Louis University provides a systematically interdisciplinary approach to the study of the cultures of the United States and to the critical analysis of their historical and contemporary evolutions through the graduate certificate in American studies. We train students in the skills of clear thinking, writing and speaking, as well as the abilities associated with interpreting literary texts, evaluating historical documents and artifacts, applying humanistic and social scientific methods and theoretical approaches, and reflecting ethically about the problems and issues raised in the classroom. As an interdisciplinary field, our courses and curriculum often connect academic study to community institutions, organizations, and populations.

For current SLU students enrolled in other master’s, doctoral or professional postgraduate programs at SLU, the graduate certificate offers coursework in the growing and vibrant interdisciplinary study of American history and culture. American studies is an 80-year old field, with its own organizations, journals, canon, and methodologies. But at the practical level, lines between American studies and cognate fields are often crossed, especially in the job market.

As a stand-alone program, a graduate certificate in American studies can offer professional development or targeted post-graduate training.

Curriculum Overview

The graduate certificate in American studies requires three courses, one required and two electives, and a one-hour written certificate exam.

Fieldwork and Research Opportunities

American studies topics courses offer an array of guided research methodologies and topics, including archival, literary and film, media and cultural studies, visual studies, and others.

Careers

A graduate certificate in American studies could enhance a postgraduate degree in a traditional field for both academic and public-facing jobs.

Admission Requirements

Undergraduate degree or equivalent in a humanities or social science area; additional prerequisite work may be required at the discretion of the department.

Standardized test scores are considered as well as GPA and TOEFL (if applicable).

Application Requirements

Students currently enrolled in a graduate program at SLU can apply through petition (https://www.slu.edu/academics/graduate/pdfs/petition_to_amend_grad_program_form.pdf).

External students applying for the stand-alone certificate should submit the following materials:

- Application form and fee
- Transcript(s)
- Two letters of recommendation
- Résumé
- Goal statement

The deadline for admissions is rolling.

All admission policies and requirements for domestic students apply to international students along with the following:

- Demonstrate English Language Proficiency (http://catalog.slu.edu/academic-policies/office-admission/undergraduate/english-language-proficiency/)
- Proof of financial support must include:
  - A letter of financial support from the person(s) or sponsoring agency funding the time at Saint Louis University
  - A letter from the sponsor’s bank verifying that the funds are available and will be so for the duration of study at the University
- Academic records, in English translation, of students who have undertaken postsecondary studies outside the United States must include the courses taken and/or lectures attended, practical laboratory work, the maximum and minimum grades attainable, the grades earned or the results of all end-of-term examinations, and any honors or degrees received. WES and ECE transcripts are accepted.

American Studies Application Review Process

All applications are reviewed by a faculty committee.

Scholarships, Assistantships and Financial Aid

For priority consideration for a graduate assistantship, applicants should complete their applications by the program admission deadlines listed. Fellowships and assistantships provide a stipend and may include health insurance and a tuition scholarship for the duration of the award.

For more information, visit the student financial services office online at http://www.slu.edu/financial-aid (http://www.slu.edu/financial-aid/).

Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to apply the major practices, theories, or research methodologies in American Studies.
2. Graduates will be able to articulate arguments or explanations to a disciplinary audience in written forms.

Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ASTD 5000</td>
<td>Perspectives in American Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASTD 5/6XXX</td>
<td>Any two additional American Studies graduate level topics courses (3 credits each = 6 credits) A minimum of three topics courses are offered every Fall and every Spring semester in various methods and topics in the field. Most topics are offered once every 2-3 years.</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples of courses:

- ASTD 5010 African American Politics, Culture & Identity
- ASTD 5020 Frontiers & Borderlands: Contact & Conquest in the American Imagination
ASTD 5700 Metropolitan America
ASTD 5930 Special Topics
ASTD 6400 Transnational America
ASTD 6500 Visions of U.S. Empire
ASTD 6700 Cold War Cultural Politics and the ‘American Century’
ASTD 6930 Special Topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Non-Course Requirements**

ASTD 5000 is followed by a Certificate Exam

**Continuation Standards**

Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 in all graduate/professional courses.

**Roadmap**

Roadmaps are recommended semester-by-semester plans of study for programs and assume full-time enrollment unless otherwise noted.

Courses and milestones designated as critical (marked with !) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation. Transfer credit may change the roadmap.

This roadmap should not be used in the place of regular academic advising appointments. All students are encouraged to meet with their advisor/mentor each semester. Requirements, course availability and sequencing are subject to change.

**Certificate Seeking Students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year One</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASTD 5000</td>
<td>Perspectives in American Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASTD 5XXX</td>
<td>American Studies 5000-level topics course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASTD 6XXX</td>
<td>American Studies 6000-level topics course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Degree Seeking Students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year One</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASTD 5000</td>
<td>Perspectives in American Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASTD 5XXX</td>
<td>American Studies 5000-level topics course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASTD 6XXX</td>
<td>American Studies 6000-level topics course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contact Us**

For additional information regarding admissions and graduate programs in the Department of American Studies, please contact amstdies@slu.edu.

Heidi Ardizzone
Graduate Coordinator

Terri Foster
Administrative Assistant
314-977-2911

Ben Looker
Internship Coordinator