

**American Studies Department  
University of California, Santa Cruz  
(For Frosh and Transfers)**

Welcome to American Studies! You can be proud that you're joining a dynamic community of students and faculty. Here are a few things you might want to know about our major:

\*We are the largest and one of the most highly rated undergraduate American Studies majors in the United States.

\*We are one of the most ethnically diverse majors on campus, and greatly value this diversity.

\*We have a prize-winning faculty who bring their nationally recognized expertise as scholars to bear on close work in the classroom with their students.

\*We stress an educative environment based on cooperation and community-building. Students in the American Studies majors go out of their way to help and stimulate each other. And students and faculty collaborate on a variety of projects.

\*In addition to offering you a broad-based, multi-culturally oriented understanding of American development and an opportunity to think about some of the most pressing problems our society faces today, we encourage you to pursue topics of special interest to you. Students use the major to study such matters as ethnicity and race, gender, class, literary and artistic expression, popular culture, mass media, political values and action, and the U.S. West.

\*About half of our majors undertake fieldwork, internships, or community-based projects as part of their formal education. We encourage you to think about ways in which your education can serve your post-graduate aspirations.

\*We offer you diverse opportunities to hone your reading, research, and writing skills. We also encourage you to use your imagination and to develop fresh perspectives on your life and your world.

\*Graduates of our program do many things. They move on to graduate work in American Studies, ethnic studies, history, literature, sociology, and other fields; to law school and careers in law and public advocacy; into journalism; into governmental service; into work with community organizations; into teaching and administrative positions in public education; and into various business activities. Whatever your specific career choices, the American Studies faculty will help you leave Santa Cruz better prepared to be an effective, responsible citizen in an increasingly complex and challenging world.

If you have any questions about the program, you may contact our Undergraduate Advisor.

Eric Porter, Chair  
American Studies  
(831) 459-4658  
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## Requirements for the Major, In Brief:

\*American Studies 10.

\*One 80 Series Course

\*Nine upper-division courses (AMST 100-189). Two of these nine courses may be from outside the program if they are integrated and related to American Studies: 2 language courses in the same language and at level 4 or above; 2 EAP courses; 2 upper-division courses in the same department; 2 upper-division courses in an area or ethnic study; or 10 units of field work or internship.

\*One senior seminar, in order to satisfy the senior comprehensive requirement for graduation. A student, working with a faculty advisor, may submit a thesis in lieu of the senior seminar.

These requirements, and ways in which you can use them to pursue your own interests, are described in detail in the online American Studies Handbook, which you can view at <http://amst.ucsc.edu>.

### Advising:

To help you figure out how you can best use American Studies to pursue your own interests and plan for a post-graduate career, we have established a multi-step advising system.

\*We'll be offering an orientation meeting for new and prospective majors in September. Please check the Fall Schedule of Classes for date and time. Come to the meeting if you possibly can.

\*If you are interested in the American Studies program, contact our Undergraduate Advisor either by phone 831-459-4658 or email [amst@ucsc.edu](mailto:amst@ucsc.edu). The advisor will give you the materials you need to enter the major.

\*Once you have declared the American Studies major, we encourage you to choose a faculty advisor. Faculty hold office hours to talk to students about specific coursework, independent study or thesis projects, career goals, and graduate programs.

\*Try to take American Studies 10, *Introduction to American Studies*, during the fall or winter quarter of your first year. This course is a prerequisite for the major and will provide a foundation for many upper-division American Studies courses. For advice as to other lower-division courses that would help you prepare for the American Studies major, contact the American Studies Office or read the American Studies Handbook.

Please feel free to contact the American Studies office with any questions you may have.

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