The Bachelor of Arts Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, American Studies Major

American studies employs investigative methodologies drawn from multiple disciplines, including attention to historical process, that involve reading, writing, conducting research, and critically thinking about the nature of American life. In American studies, an interdisciplinary approach is used to examine relevant topics such as region, place, cultural forms expressing American identity, America’s place in the global community, and social constructs of class, gender, and race. Students will have the opportunity for experiential learning and study abroad. A major in American studies is excellent preparation for graduate and professional schools and for careers in journalism, law, government, education, non-profit organizations, and business.

The major is comprised of four core courses in American studies (AMST) with the remaining courses selected from approved, related courses from various disciplines as determined by the chosen concentration. Students will work closely with an advisor to ensure their curriculum has coherence, depth, and breadth and that it is consistent with the students’ future plans.

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies requires that students fulfill the liberal learning curriculum, American studies core courses and complete one of the three concentrations (constitutional studies, social sciences or humanities) as listed below.

Constitutional Studies Concentration

This concentration is open to all students, and is especially useful for those interested in graduate study in social and political science, government, history or law. The constitutional studies concentration requires 24 credits in addition to the required American studies core courses. No more than two courses (6 credits) may be at the 100 or 200 level; 18 credits must be at the 300 or 400 level.

1. American studies core: AMST 100, 200, 300, 490W;
2. GOVT 316, PHIL 425;
3. Select six (18 credits) courses, a minimum of four at the 300 level or higher: AMST 120, 210, 330, 390; BUSN 351; CLST 101; ECON 302, 435; COMM 305; GOVT 240, 243, 321, 327, 333, 344, 359, 363 386W, 375; HIST 304, 305, 341, 349, 354; HONR 322, 323; PHIL 205, 321, RSTD 321.

NOTES:
• No more than one A of I course may count toward
both the liberal learning core A of I requirement and the major requirement.

- No more than one Honors course may count toward the major.

**Humanities Concentration**

Humanities concentration requires 24 credits in addition to the required American studies core courses. No more than two courses (6 credits) may be at the 100 or 200 level; a minimum of 18 credits must be at the 300 or 400 level.

1. **American studies core:** AMST 100, 200, 300, 490W.

2. **Humanities** - Select five from at least two disciplines: AMST 195, 295, 310, 395, 399, 495, 499; CLST 101; ENGL 315, 341, 342, 343, 345, 346, 381, 410, 412; FNAR 372, 375; HIST 121, 122, 304, 305, 341, 336, 340, 349, 350, 351, 352, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 372, 453; HONR 322, 323; MUSC 408; PHIL 312, 425; RSTD 338; THEA 346, 361W.


4. **Global-Comparative** - Select one: AMST 195, 295, 390, 395, 495; ANTH 377; COMM 340; ECON 385, 470; ENGL 320W, 425; FNAR 377; GOVT 215, 311W, 358, 368W, 402; HIST 325, 469; HONR 490W; PHIL 315; PSYC 320; SOCL 377.

**NOTES:**

- No more than one A of I course may count toward both the liberal learning core A of I requirement and the major requirement.
- No more than one Honors course may count toward the major.

**Social Sciences Concentration**

Social science concentration 24 credits in addition to the required American studies core courses. No more than two courses (6 credits) may be at the 100 or 200 level; a minimum of 18 credits must be at the 300 or 400 level.

1. **American studies core:** AMST 100, 200, 300, 490W.


4. **Global-Comparative** - Select one: AMST 195, 295, 390, 395, 495; ANTH 377; COMM 340; ECON 385, 470; ENGL 320W, 425.; FNAR 377; GOVT 215, 311W, 358, 368W, 402; HIST 325, 469; HONR 490W; PHIL 315; PSYC 320; SOCL 377.

**NOTES:**

- No more than one A of I course may count toward both the liberal learning core A of I requirement and the major requirement.
- No more than one Honors course may count toward the major.

**The Minor in American Studies (18 credits)**

The minor in American studies requires 18 credit hours, including AMST 100, 200, and 300 plus nine additional hours at the 300-400 level chosen in consultation with an assigned departmental advisor from courses approved for the major in American Studies.

**The Minor in Leadership Studies (18 credits)**

The leadership studies minor, which is open to all CNU students, is interdisciplinary and highly complementary to any liberal arts and sciences or professional education. The Leadership studies minor is required for President’s Leadership Program (PLP) students, but also is an attractive curriculum for other interested students.

Leading and following occurs in families, neighborhoods, communities, civic clubs, organizations, states, and nations. The process of leadership involves establishing trust and achieving change through shaping vision, values, and culture. Ethical leaders are needed who can identify important issues, heighten public awareness and understanding, develop imaginative solutions and strategies, and inspire and empower others to give of themselves to achieve the vision of a better tomorrow. Here, the word leader is intended to mean a person acting in a leadership role, not necessarily the occupant of a designated position of authority. The following curriculum is designed to prepare CNU students to engage effectively in the leadership process:

1. **Minor core:** LDSP 230, 310, 386 and 491W;

2. **Select two:** AMST 100; HONR 335; LDSP 195, 250, 295, 330, 380, 384, 395, 399, 499; MLSC 401-401L; or MGMT 310.

**Graduate School Preparation**

Students who intend to pursue graduate studies in American Studies beyond the Bachelor of Arts degree in American Studies, should meet regularly with their advisor to prepare an appropriate course of study. They should consider a study abroad program, and opportunities to present their research at conferences.
The Pre-Law Program
The Bachelor of Arts degree in American Studies represents an excellent schedule of analytical courses recommended for both admission to and success in law school. The “constitutional studies concentration” within American Studies is designed to prepare students for law school by providing the foundational knowledge of the U.S. Constitution in addition to the analytical, research, and writing skills recommended by the American Bar Association (ABA). For additional information on law school preparation, or Law school Admissions Testing (LSAT), contact American Studies Professor William Thro, CNU’s pre-law advisor, or see the Pre-law Program located in this catalog.

Internship Opportunities
Students may choose to take internships at the local, state, federal, and international levels. Internships might be as varied as working with historical societies, government agencies, local campaigns, business or management firms, private firms, or domestic foreign-based non-profit organizations. The Center for American Studies offers and can assist students in finding internship opportunities.

Teacher Preparation in History/ Social Science
Those students who wish to become teachers should apply to the five-year Masters of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) program. Application to the program must be made in spring of the junior year and will require: 3.0 GPA; passing scores on the PRAXIS I exam or SAT score of 1100 with at least 530 in critical reading and mathematics subtests; essay specifying the reason for applying to the program; and two letters of recommendation. Students will earn a B.A. in American Studies after the first four years and then complete an additional year of study leading to an M.A.T. degree. As an interdisciplinary major, American Studies is a natural fit for students intending to become teachers with the history/social science endorsement because the major enables students to take courses both in history and the social sciences towards their degree program. The courses and degree requirements for the M.A.T. are found in the graduate catalog. Students accepted into this program must complete one of the following tracks with the bachelor’s degree:

Elementary level (PK-6) Track
Major courses required:
See major requirements for the B.A. in American Studies. You may major under any of the three approved concentrations.

Support courses required:
ENGL 123, 223; MATH 125; COMM 201 or THEA 230; two science courses and one science lab; GEOG 201; PSYC 207 or 208; SOCL 314/314L; PSYC 312; NSCI 310; MATH 109; ENGL 316; ENGL 310 or 430; CPSC 110; GOVT 101.

Graduate courses* required (senior year):
Select six credits: PSYC/TCHG 544, 532; MATH 570.

Secondary level (6-12) Track: History/ Social Science Endorsement
Major courses required:
See major requirements for the B.A. in American Studies. You may major under any of the three approved concentrations.

Support courses required:
HIST 111-112, 121-122; MATH 125; COMM 201 or THEA 230; PSYC 207 or 208; and PSYC 312; SOCL 314/314L; GOVT 100 or 101; GOVT 202; GOVT 215; Two 300-400 level government electives; Two 300-400 level history electives; ECON 201 or 202; GEOG 201 and 202; CPSC 110. Please note that you may take your two 300-400 level government electives and two 300-400 level history electives from the list of approved American Studies course to count towards your major.

Graduate courses* required (senior year): Select six credits: 500 level History courses; HIST 570. *See the graduate catalog for graduate courses.
*See the graduate catalog for course descriptions.

THE CURRICULUM IN AMERICAN STUDIES

AMST 100. The American Experiment: Formation of Democratic Life (3-3-0) AIWT
An introduction to the discipline of American Studies. Students will examine the ways in which America was, and is, an experiment in democratic life. This course critically examines the intellectual and cultural foundations of American life as well as the formation of American identities and competing ideals. Students will explore the extent to which America has been shaped by issues such as unity, equality, liberty, individualism, civic engagement, and democratic values.

AMST 120. Encounters with the Constitution (3-3-0)
This course explores the constitutional, historical, political, sociological, and economic implications of selected landmark U.S. Supreme Court cases as a means of gaining greater understanding of the Constitution and its significance in everyday life. Topics include the role of the judiciary, the powers of the federal government, race, religion, abortion, and economic rights. The course is designed for students who are considering law school and serves as an introduction to the constitutional studies concentration.

AMST 195. Special Topics (3-3-0)
These courses allow students to explore major issues, trends, or themes in American Studies. Topics vary.
AMST 200. The American Experiment: Evolution (3-3-0) AIII
An interdisciplinary study of the evolution of the American Experiment as viewed through its changing institutions, ideals, and culture. In this context, topics such as family, education, race, gender, immigration, citizenship, capitalism, poverty, religion, and popular culture will be explored.

AMST 210. Capitalism, American Style (3-3-0) AIWT
This course introduces students to capitalism as an economic system beginning with its philosophical and moral foundations and its evolution in the United States. The principles of free markets will be applied to a variety of historical and current issues ranging from business regulation and labor markets to health care and the environment.

AMST 295. Special Topics (3-3-0)
These courses allow students to explore major issues, trends, or themes in American Studies. Topics vary.

AMST 300. The American Experiment: Global Influence (3-3-0) AIGM
Prerequisite: ENGL 223 with a grade of C- or higher.
A critical evaluation of the American Experiment through the lens of the global community that asks what it means to be an American in an increasingly global world. Students explore post-colonial world views of a number of influential philosophers, scholars, leaders, and policy makers on America’s life, culture, and place in the world. Topics may include global rights and duties, resource scarcity, cultural imperialism, public health, and the clash of liberalism with fundamentalism.

AMST 310. The American Economy in Literature (3-3-0) AIIII
Prerequisite: ENGL 223 or consent of the instructor.
A study of the workings of the American economy using selections from literature. Course readings will include excerpts and short works by authors including Frost, Steinbeck, and others. Topics to be covered include supply and demand, capitalism, income inequality, public goods and government regulation, and labor markets.

AMST 330. Treason in America (3-3-0)
Prerequisite: ENGL 223 or consent of instructor.
This course examines how Americans have grappled with the problem of treason in America from the Colonial Era to the War on Terror. Students will study the fundamental role that treason plays in American discourse by exploring such topics as the proper role of antiwar dissent, the “limits” of free speech, the difficulties associated with protecting civil liberties during war, and the role of America’s two-party system during national crises.

AMST 390. American Studies and Travel (3-3-0)
Prerequisites: AMST 100 or 120 or 200, or consent of the instructor.
This course will allow students from all disciplines to compare American institutions and culture to those of other nations while studying abroad. Destinations and topics will depend upon faculty expertise and student interest. University study abroad paperwork required. Additional fees may be required. Repeatable once for credit, different topic and location.

AMST 395. Special Topics (3-3-0)
These courses allow students to explore major issues, trends, or themes in American Studies. Topics vary.

AMST 399. Independent Study in American Studies (credits vary 1-3)
Prerequisite: junior standing or consent of instructor.
The purpose of this junior-level course is to enable a qualified student to enrich her/his program through independent work under the guidance of a faculty member. The topic and method of grading are agreed upon in writing by the student and the supervising faculty member and filed with the appropriate college offices by the end of pre-registration. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.50 is required. A student may take a maximum of three hours of independent study in a semester and a maximum of six hours in her/his academic program.

AMST 490. WI: Capstone Seminar in American Studies (3-3-0)
Prerequisite: ENGL 223; completion of 75 credit hours; AMST major; and completion of AMST 100, 200, and 300 with a C or better.
A capstone academic experience in which each student is expected to demonstrate independent research skills, prepare and present a formal paper, and participate in the discussion and analysis of presentations by other members of the seminar. Each student will prepare a research project on an issue of current concern viewed from the perspective of the student’s particular focus within the American Studies major. The product of this scholarship will exemplify the student’s academic credentials in terms of knowledge, skills, and abilities. In addition, each student will complete a standardized assessment relevant to American Studies. Partially satisfies the University Writing Intensive requirement.

AMST 495. Special Topics (3-3-0)
These courses allow students to explore major issues, trends, or themes in American Studies. Topics vary.

AMST 499. Independent Study in American Studies (credits vary 1-3)
Prerequisite: senior standing or consent of instructor.
The purpose of this advanced, senior-level course is to en-
able a qualified student to enrich her/his program through independent work under the guidance of a faculty member. The topic and method of grading are agreed upon in writing by the student and the supervising faculty member and filed with the appropriate college offices by the end of pre-registration. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.50 is required. A student may take a maximum of three hours of independent study in a semester and a maximum of six hours in her/his academic program.

THE CURRICULUM IN LEADERSHIP STUDIES

LDSP 195. Special Topics (3-3-0)
Topics vary, determined by the special interests and needs of students and the expertise of faculty.

LDSP 210. Self, Group and Leadership (3-3-0)
Restricted to First Year Students.

Fall.
This interactive course introduces students to the role of self and group in the leadership process. Through academic study, personal assessment, in-class activities, and assignments, students will gain an understanding of how personal development impacts leadership capabilities, the importance of self-understanding to effective leadership, and the relationship between self identity and group process. In addition to self-study, students will study group development, group think, and the effect of power and communication styles in group dynamics.

LDSP 230. Leadership Through the Ages (3-3-0) AIII

Spring.
In attempting to understand leadership in the 21st Century, one cannot ignore the insights and practices of significant historical leaders and thinkers from throughout the world and to examine how their lessons in leadership may or may not be applicable to current leadership issues. Using an interdisciplinary approach, students will study leaders acting in multiple contexts to understand how the contemporary and immediate situational factors influence leadership behavior.

LDSP 250. Environmental Leadership (3-3-0)
Prerequisite: sophomore standing.
This course examines environmental leadership in a variety of contexts over the past two centuries, with an emphasis on North America. Students will be introduced to a broad spectrum of leaders who have been influential in charting a sustainable relationship between human beings and the biosphere. A variety of forms of environmental leadership are explored, along with the increasingly evident connections between the general construct of “leadership” and environmental concern.

LDSP 295. Special Topics (3-3-0)
Topics vary, determined by the special interests and needs of students and the expertise of faculty.

LDSP 310. Leadership Theory and Research (3-3-0)
Prerequisite: LDSP 230 or consent of the instructor.
Fall.
This course examines salient theories, approaches, and the accumulated research-based understanding of the theoretical construct of leadership. Emphasis is placed on the evolution of leadership theory and contribution of research to the synthesis of historical leadership perspectives in contemporary leadership models. Enduring elements, ongoing controversies, emerging trends, and contemporary research are examined. The role of leadership is distinguished from that of management.

LDSP 320. Leadership Through the Ages (3-3-0)
Prerequisite: LDSP 220 and LDSP 310, both with grade of C- or higher, or consent of instructor.
Spring.
For students admitted prior to fall 2012. In attempting to understand leadership in the 21st Century, one cannot ignore the insights and practices of significant figures from the past. This course is designed to introduce students to some of the most influential historical leaders and thinkers from throughout the world and to examine how their lessons in leadership may or may not be applicable to current leadership issues. Using an interdisciplinary approach, students will study leaders acting in multiple contexts to understand how the contemporary and immediate situational factors influence leadership behavior.

LDSP 330. Cross-cultural Leadership (3-3-0) AIII
Prerequisite: LDSP 310 with grade of C- or higher; or consent of instructor.
Old maps of a “flat” world show the area of origin as the center or middle of the Earth, illustrating the mindset of societal and cultural preeminence. Through investigation of concepts, patterns, and issues that shape society and cultural mores, students learn the importance of society and culture to effective leadership in a global setting and understand how to assess social structure and culture when making leadership decisions.

LDSP 380. Women and Leadership (3-3-0)
Prerequisite: Junior standing.
This course provides an in-depth exploration of various topics related to women and leadership. Through the study of theoretical and empirical scholarship relevant to gender and leadership, diverse women leaders in various contexts, media representations of women leaders and women’s leadership in practice, and personal discussions with women leaders and their followers, students will gain a deeper
understanding of the ways in which gender identity can affect perceptions and practices of leadership. Repeatable once for a maximum of 6 credits.

LDSP 384. Leading Change (3-3-0)
Prerequisites: LDSP 230 or GOVT 101 or SOWK 201 or BUSN 300 all with grade of C- or higher, or consent of instructor.
This course examines models of change with particular emphasis on group processes and the role of leadership. Change is explored as a process that presents opportunities and challenges for internal and external change. The course analyzes resistance to change and how leadership processes can be developed and employed to facilitate and motivate change. Techniques for effective communication, intervention, and conflict resolution are reviewed. Analytical methods to identify the need for change and individuals' readiness for change are discussed.

LDSP 386. Values Leadership (3-3-0)
Prerequisites: LDSP 310 with grade of C- or higher, or consent of instructor.
This course examines the paradigm of values leadership as a theory and a philosophy. Values leadership is based on selecting, defining, modeling, and promoting values to unify individuals in striving toward a shared vision. Values based leaders create a culture of trust and leverage core values that inspire individuals to a higher level of motivation, morality, and achievement. Terminal, instrumental, and organizational values are explored. The techniques of envisioning, culture shaping, developing self-led followers, fostering trust, and ethical decision making are explored. The course considers the moral responsibilities of a leader toward his or her followers.

LDSP 395. Special Topics (3-3-0)
Prerequisite: LDSP 310 with grade of C- or higher, or consent of instructor.
Topics vary, determined by the special interests and needs of students and the expertise of faculty.

LDSP 399. Independent Study in Leadership (credits vary 1-3)
Prerequisites: consent of instructor and Department Chair.
The purpose of this junior-level course is to enable a qualified student to enrich her/his program through independent work under the guidance of a faculty member. The topic and method of grading are agreed upon in writing by the student and the supervising faculty member and filed with the appropriate college offices by the end of pre-registration. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 is required. A student may take a maximum of three hours of independent study in a semester and a maximum of six hours in her/his academic program.

LDSP 491. WI: Leadership Internship Seminar (3-3-0)
Prerequisites: ENGL 223; LDSP 386 with grade of C- or higher and junior standing.
The internship seminar is designed to help students integrate and apply the knowledge and experiences obtained in leadership courses to the internship setting. Using various research methodologies students in the seminar will analyze the leadership of the internship site, assess its leadership effectiveness, and determine strategies for change. Internship to be completed no more than one academic year prior to the seminar semester. Partially satisfies the University Writing Intensive requirement.

LDSP 495. Special Topics (3-3-0)
Topics vary, determined by the special interests and needs of students and the expertise of faculty.

LDSP 499. Independent Study in Leadership (credits vary 1-3)
Prerequisites: consent of instructor and Department Chair.
The purpose of this advanced, senior-level course is to enable a qualified student to enrich her/his program through independent work under the guidance of a faculty member. The topic and method of grading are agreed upon in writing by the student and the supervising faculty member and filed with the appropriate college offices by the end of pre-registration. A minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.50 is required. A student may take a maximum of three hours of independent study in a semester and a maximum of six hours in her/his academic program.