AMERICAN STUDIES

Humanities Quadrangle, 203.432.1186
http://americanstudies.yale.edu
M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.

Chair
Laura Barraclough (HQ 314, 203.432.1186)

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Associate Professors  Crystal Feimster, Zareena Grewal, Greta LaFleur, Albert Laguna, Elihu Rubin

Assistant Professors  Julian Posada, Madiha Tahir

Senior Lecturer  James Berger

FIELDS OF STUDY
Fields include American literature, history, the arts and material culture, philosophy, cultural theory, and the social sciences.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE

During the first two years of study students are required to take twelve term courses; at least half of these courses must be in American Studies. Two courses, both graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory, are required: AMST 600, American Scholars, taken in the first year, and AMST 602, Field Studies, taken in the second year. The student’s program will be decided in consultation with the adviser and the director of graduate studies (DGS). In each of the two years, the student should take at least one seminar devoted to research or requiring a substantial original paper, and must achieve two grades of Honors, with an average overall of High Pass.

Students are required to show proficiency in a language other than English; they may fulfill this requirement by (1) conducting substantial research in the chosen language as part of the course requirements for one of the twelve required seminars, (2) passing a translation test, offered each term by various language departments, or (3) receiving a grade of B or higher in a Yale College intermediate- or advanced-level language course or in a Yale language-for-reading course, such as French for Reading or German for Reading.
Upon completion of course work, students in their third year of study are required to participate in at least one term of a monthly prospectus workshop (AMST 902). Intended to complement the work of the prospectus committee, the workshop is designed as a professionalization experience that culminates in students’ presentation of the dissertation prospectus at their prospectus colloquium.

Students should schedule the oral qualifying examinations in four fields, in the fifth term of study. Preparation, submission, and approval of the dissertation prospectus should be completed by the end of the sixth term, with a final deadline at the end of the seventh term with permission from the DGS. Students are admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D. upon completion of all predissertation requirements, including the prospectus. The faculty in American Studies considers training in teaching to be an important part of the program. Students in American Studies normally teach in years three and four.

COMBINED PH.D. PROGRAMS

American Studies and African American Studies

The American Studies Program also offers, in conjunction with the Department of African American Studies, a combined Ph.D. in American Studies and African American Studies. This combined degree is most appropriate for students who intend to concentrate in and write a dissertation on any aspect of African American history, literature, or culture in the United States and other parts of the Americas. Applicants to the combined program must indicate on their application that they are applying both to American Studies and to African American Studies. All documentation within the application should include this information. For further details, see African American Studies.

American Studies and Film and Media Studies

The American Studies Program also offers, in conjunction with the Program in Film and Media Studies, a combined Ph.D. in American Studies and Film and Media Studies. Applicants to the combined program must indicate on their application that they are applying both to American Studies and to Film and Media Studies. All documentation within the application should include this information. For further details, see Film and Media Studies.

American Studies and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

The American Studies Program also offers, in conjunction with the Program in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, a combined Ph.D. in American Studies and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. This combined degree is most appropriate for students who intend to concentrate in and write a dissertation on any aspect of gender and sexuality; transnational politics and security regimes; citizenship and statelessness; public law and sexual violence; public policy and political representation; kinship, reproduction, and reproductive technologies; policing, surveillance, and incarceration; social movements and protest; indigeneity, racialization, and racism; literature, language, and translation; Islam and neoliberalism; colonialism and postcolonialism. Applicants to the combined program must indicate on their
application that they are applying both to American Studies and to Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. All documentation within the application should include this information. For further details, see Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

PUBLIC HUMANITIES CERTIFICATE
The Certificate in Public Humanities is granted upon the completion of all requirements. For more details on these requirements, as well as information on courses, projects, and teaching opportunities, see Public Humanities under Non-Degree Granting Programs, Councils, and Research Institutes.

MASTER’S DEGREES

M.Phil.  See Degree Requirements under Policies and Regulations.

M.A.  Students may apply for a terminal master’s degree in American Studies. For the M.A. degree, students must successfully complete seven term courses, including a special writing project, and the language requirement. The project involves the submission of substantial written work either in conjunction with one course or as a tutorial that substitutes for one course. Students must earn a grade of Honors in two of their courses and an average grade of High Pass in the others. Candidates in combined programs will be awarded the M.A. only when the master’s degree requirements for both programs have been met. Doctoral students who withdraw from the Ph.D. program may be eligible to receive the M.A. degree if they have met the above requirements and have not already received the M.Phil. degree.

More information is available on the department’s website, http://americanstudies.yale.edu.