

Southern Methodist University MASTER OF LIBERAL STUDIES

Curricular Field Concentrations

American Studies

Curriculum Description

The major dimensions of American culture are explored through American Studies. The goal is for students to develop a critical, balanced, and integrated view of American life and society, and in the process to answer the question posed by Hector St. John de Crevecoeur in the eighteenth century, "What, then, is the American, this new man?" This concentration is not designed to be a professional or vocational credential, but rather to enrich the student's knowledge and understanding of this curricular field of study.

Courses from departments at SMU other than Liberal Studies may be selected with the permission of both departments on a space-available basis (maximum of 6 credit hours). Non-GLS courses must be "in the spirit" of the Liberal Studies Degree Program with the approval of the Program Director and Department Chair. Independent Study courses may also be designed with designated faculty members (maximum of 6 credit hours) to supplement MLS course offerings, with the approval of the Program Director and Department Chair. The American Studies concentration will appear on the final transcript of record.

Students may participate in appropriate study abroad experiences, such as those offered in France and Italy and other sites through the Master of Liberal Studies program. A study tour may count toward the concentration electives.

Format

Students who select the American Studies concentration must complete the following:

- 36 credit hours (required for the overall MLS degree)
- The 3 credit hour introductory required course: The Human Experience
- 3 credit hour designated writing intensive course (not part of the concentration)
- 6 elective courses related to the designated concentration (determined by the student and faculty member)
- 6 plus credit hour thesis or 3 credit hour capstone project

COURSES, American Studies BHSC 6314 Native American Heritage of North America BHSC 6363 The Immigrant Experience BHSC 6398 The Child in Contemporary Society FNAR 6201/6101/Art and Architecture in Hispanic New Mexico FNAR 6302 Black Aesthetic in the Visual Arts FNAR 6313 Contemporary Art FNAR 6318 Women in American Theatre: Actresses, Playwrights, and Directors FNAR 6321 Great Books of Art History FNAR 6322 Modern Movements in European and American Painting FNAR 6333 Approaching Contemporary Art: Post WWII (1950-1980) **HUMN 6204/6104/Sacred Places and Spiritual Practices** HUMN 6205/6105/Women and the Southwest HUMN 6310 "Tell About the South": Voices in Faulkner's Novels **HUMN 6311** Objectivity and Bias in the News HUMN 6318 Americans in Paris: The Lives and Literature of the "Lost" Generation **HUMN 6320** Jewish American Literature **HUMN 6321** International Humanitarian Aid in a Post Cold War World **HUMN 6322** Making Sense of the American Spiritual Landscape **HUMN 6328** Love and Transformation **HUMN 6330** Wit and Humor in African American Literature **HUMN 6350** The Art of African American Storytelling **HUMN 6351** Interpretation and Performance of African-American Poetry HUMN 6352 Interpretation of Folklore in African American Fiction **HUMN 6354** Remembering the Sixties: Culture and Change **HUMN 6373** American Regional Literature **HUMN 6375** History of the Freedom of Expression **HUMN 6378** Literature of the Great Plains **HUMN 6380** The News Media in Contemporary Society HUMN 6385 American Society Through Film: The Twentieth Century HUMN 6397 Troubled Youth: Educating the Young in America **HUMN 7302** Transnational Literary Traditions **HUMN 7303** The Culture of Rock and Roll **HUMN 7304** Middle Eastern American Literature **HUMN 7333** Reading Plato in Gatsby **HUMN 7335** The Myths of Our Time: Introduction to Media Literacy HUMN 7350 Special Topics: American Activism 1960-1980 HUMN 7364 The Individual and the Irrational, Ancient and Modern SCCL 6312 Energy and Economy SCCL 7205/7105/Flowering Plants of the Southern Rockies SCCL 7206/7106/Biotic Communities & Environments of the Southwest SOSC 6115 Classic Texts in the Social Sciences: Notes of Debates in the Federal Convention SOSC 6301 Terrorism, Torture and International Law SOSC 6305 The History of Time SOSC 6307 History of Consumer Culture in the United States SOSC 6309 The Struggle for Human Rights: America's Dilemma SOSC 6311 Seminar in Dallas History SOSC 6313 Native Americans and the Young American Republic SOSC 6314 Living Through the American Revolution SOSC 6316 Farms, Plantations, and Towns: Diversity in the "New World" SOSC 6323 History of Schools and Education in American Society SOSC 6327 American Citizenship SOSC 6329 The American Presidency SOSC 6330 Politics and Film SOSC 6331 Presidential Elections and American Politics SOSC 6332 Ideas Shaping the American Character I: 1607 to 1876 SOSC 6333 Ideas Shaping the American Character II: 1877 to the Present SOSC 6342 America's Defining Moment: The American Civil War and Reconstruction SOSC 6343 America: Conflicting Values in a Capitalist Democracy SOSC 6344 Contemporary Economic Issues I SOSC 6345 Contemporary Economic Issues II SOSC 6347 Placers, Placitas, and Pachyderms SOSC 6348 The Changing Landscape of Political Thought SOSC 6350 First Person American Lives SOSC 6353 Women in U.S. History SOSC 6355 America Enraged: From Integration to Watergate SOSC 6356 Civil Rights: The Unfinished Revolution SOSC 6367 Comparative Revolutions: A Historical Perspective SOSC 7308 The Great Encounter: How Indians and Europeans Met SOSC 7322 Women and the American Experience, Part 1 (1607-1900) SOSC 7323 Women and American Experience, Part II