

# MASTER OF ARTS IN AMERICAN STUDIES

## Program Director

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## Program Description

The Master of Arts in American studies program is designed to provide students with training in the content, theory, and methods for studying the history and culture of the United States and is designed to provide both training and experience in developing and implementing public humanities and educational programs. Special emphasis is placed on the application of the humanities in community, museum, and school settings. The program offers a core of courses in American studies, art and literature, history, working-class studies, and public practice, along with opportunities to work in local museums, schools, community projects, and other public humanities programs. Courses for the program have been drawn from five different colleges, providing students the chance to gain a truly broad and diverse education while deepening their knowledge of American culture. The M.A. in American studies also offers a teaching track designed for secondary school teachers.

## Admission Requirements

Students must have a cumulative grade point average in undergraduate study of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale). The bachelor's degree may be in any field, but students should have taken at least 12 hours of upper-division coursework in some combination of the arts, humanities, and/or social sciences. Applicants must include a personal statement detailing goals and decision for pursuing graduate study in American Studies.

## Graduate Faculty

**John M. Hazy**, Ph.D., Professor, Chair  
 Community health; life course issues; teaching effectiveness

**Martha Pallante**, Ph.D., Professor  
 Early American studies; material culture; pedagogy

**Linda J. Strom**, Ph.D., Associate Professor

## Degree Requirements

Students must complete 36 semester hours of coursework at the graduate level.

COURSE	TITLE	S.H.
<b>Required Core Courses</b>		
AMER 6900	Approaches to American Studies	3
AMER 6990	Independent Project <sup>1</sup>	3
<b>Practice Area</b>		
Select two credits from one of the following tracks:		6
Teaching Track		
Select two of the following:		
AMER 6970	Teaching Working-Class Studies	
AMER 6975	Interdisciplinary Teaching	
ENGL 6906	Teaching of Literature	
ENGL 6907	Teaching of Writing	
ENGL 6974	English Education Workshop	
ENGL 6976	Studies in English Education	

HIST 6950	Studies in the Teaching of History	
Public Practice Track		
SED 6935	Curriculum Development in VBME	
AMER 6930	Humanities in the Community	
AMER 6980	Public Humanities Internship	
<b>Focus Area</b>		
Select at least four courses from one of the following areas:		12
Cultural Studies		
ANTH 6910	Special Anthropological Problems	
ART 5881	Twentieth Century Art to 1960	
ART 5882	Twentieth Century Art from 1960	
ENGL 6915	Early American Studies	
ENGL 6917	Nineteenth-Century American Studies	
ENGL 6922	Twentieth-Century American	
ENGL 6923	Working Class Literature	
ENGL 6965	Studies in Film	
FNLG 6900	Seminar	
HIST 5806	American Architectural History 1	
HIST 5807	American Architectural History 2	
HIST 6940	Oral History	
SOC 6900	Special Sociological Problems	
American History		
FOUN 6905	Educational Challenges in Historical Perspective	
HIST 6910	Readings in American History	
HIST 6912	Research Seminar in American Colonial History	
HIST 6913	Research Seminar in 19th-Century America	
HIST 6914	Research Seminar in 20th-Century America	
HIST 6941	American Material Culture	
Working-Class Studies		
AMER 5850	Class and Culture	
AMER 6910	Introduction to Working-Class Studies	
AMER 6970	Teaching Working-Class Studies	
ENGL 6923	Working Class Literature	
HIST 6939	Labor in US History	
HIST 6945	Interpretation and Preservation of the Industrial Built Environment	
Public History		
CJFS 6960	Program Planning and Evaluation	
EDAD 6933	Educational Leadership and Organizational Change	
ENGL 6944	Document Design and Production	
ENGL 6953	Publications Issues and Management	
ENGL 6992	Professional Communication	
HIST 5810	Conservation of the Historic Built Environment	
HIST 6942	Applied History	
HIST 5810	Conservation of the Historic Built Environment	
HIST 6942	Applied History	
HIST 6943	Practicum in Applied History	
HIST/ENGL 6946	Historical Editing	
HIST 6955	Museum Curation and Interpretation 1	
HIST 6956	Museum Curation and Interpretation 2	
HIST 6957	Special Topics in Applied History	
<b>Distribution Requirement</b>		
Select four additional course with at least one from each of the other focus areas above.		12
Total Semester Hours		36

<sup>1</sup> The required course, AMER 6990 Independent Project in American Studies, requires each student to complete an independent project, such as:

- a major research project,
- the design and promotion of a special exhibit at a museum,
- the development of an education program at a local library, or
- the completion of a planning project in cooperation with a local community development agency.

Students will work closely with a committee of YSU faculty and community specialists to design and implement their individual projects.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Students will analyze the various ways in which American culture is complex and diverse. Understanding American culture requires attention to how American diversity is reflected in the ideas, events, trends, texts, and issues created and used by Americans in everyday life as well as in community life and politics.
2. Students will explore and practice strategies for doing interdisciplinary analysis, which relies on the development of complex inquiry, selection of appropriate materials and concepts from a wide array of options, and the application of appropriate methods for interpreting and integrating diverse sources.
3. Students will create papers and projects in courses that demonstrate their ability to effectively communicate cultural knowledge and analyze why and how their choices are effective. This requires students to make appropriate choices about format, content, organization, and the use of evidence based on one's purpose, audience, and situation.
4. Students will develop connections between campus and community through papers, projects, and internships that apply the academic work to realms beyond the academy.
5. Students will plan, develop, write, and publicly present original research through their independent (thesis) projects.
6. Students will acquire professional experiences appropriate to the field of American Studies.

## Graduate Courses

### **AMER 5845 Work in America 3 s.h.**

Examines the changing characteristics, expectations, and representations of work in America. Includes the exploration of demographic, historic, economic, technological, sociological, religious, ethical, popular, and poetic perspectives on work.

**Prereq.:** junior standing.

**Cross-listed:** MGT 5845.

### **AMER 5850 Class and Culture 3 s.h.**

Theories of social class structure and formation, relationships between class and culture, representations of class and work, intersections of class with other aspects of cultural identity (race, gender, sexuality, place), and theories and methods of working-class studies.

**Prereq.:** graduate standing or AMER 3701.

### **AMER 6900 Approaches to American Studies 3 s.h.**

Introduction to American studies with emphasis on history of the field, interdisciplinary approaches, and cultural diversity.

### **AMER 6910 Introduction to Working-Class Studies 3 s.h.**

Introduction to developments, approaches, and issues in new working-class studies, including intersections of class with other categories of identity, disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives, representations of the working class in the arts and media, and political and economic constructions of class.

### **AMER 6930 Humanities in the Community 3 s.h.**

Opportunities, challenges, and strategies for developing, promoting, and implementing public humanities projects in various settings, including community development and organizing, community-based adult education, and programs in museums and other public humanities organizations.

**Prereq.:** AMER 6900.

### **AMER 6970 Teaching Working-Class Studies 3 s.h.**

Interdisciplinary teaching strategies focused on incorporating attention to work, class, diversity, and local history and culture into K-12 and college courses.

### **AMER 6975 Interdisciplinary Teaching 3 s.h.**

Introduction to interdisciplinarity and its application in the classroom with emphasis on integration of humanities and social sciences.

### **AMER 6980 Public Humanities Internship 3 s.h.**

Supervised work-and-learning experience in American studies under the direction of an American studies core faculty member and an employee of a participating organization.

### **AMER 6982 Special Topics 3 s.h.**

Specialized topics selected by the staff. May be repeated once with a different topic.

**Prereq.:** Permission of the American studies program coordinator and instructor.

### **AMER 6985 Independent Study 3 s.h.**

Individual study in American studies or a related discipline under the supervision of a faculty member. May be repeated once.

**Prereq.:** Permission of the American studies program coordinator and instructor.

### **AMER 6990 Independent Project 1-3 s.h.**

Completion of individual project in a community or school setting. May be repeated for a maximum of three semester hours.

**Prereq.:** Proposal and review meeting with committee.