



The  
University  
of Sydney

# American Studies at the University of Sydney

School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry

Faculty of Arts

**A**merican Studies is an interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary program of study incorporating units of study from the Departments of English, Film Studies, History, Government and Music, and based in the School of Philosophical and Historical Inquiry. It enables students to develop a broad, multi-faceted understanding of the United States, which remains the dominant cultural and political force in the twenty-first century, and has long loomed large in Australian life. Understanding the United States is critical for global citizens.

There is a rich history of research and teaching on the United States in the Faculty of Arts, particularly in the departments of History and English. Both those departments have the largest concentration of academics working on the United States of any university in Australia. The Faculty offers the widest range of undergraduate units of study focused on the United States of any Arts Faculty in Australia. In Fisher Library, staff and students have access to one of the most extensive collections of American material of any library in Australia. From 2007, the University of Sydney is also the home of the new Federal government sponsored United States Studies Centre, which will bring leading Australian and American experts to the university, and offer postgraduate programs of study.

## Majoring in American Studies

**T**he American Studies major is offered at senior level only. It consists of one core unit of study, AMST2601 American Foundations, and five senior units of study chosen from a list of cross-

listed units offered by participating departments, no more than three of which may come from a single department. A major in American studies is also one of the Area Studies options for students enrolled in the Bachelor of Global Studies.

## The Core Unit

### AMST2601 American Foundations

The core unit is an interdisciplinary course team taught by staff from the contributing departments, and offered in semester one of each year. This is a modular unit of study, with four principal areas of investigation: Forging a Republic; Slavery; Modernity; and the Cold War. Each topic will be approached from a variety of angles – the historical, the literary, the cultural, and where relevant the cinematic – to introduce students to an interdisciplinary approach to the United States.

You must have completed 12 junior credit points of English, and/or History and/or Art History and Film in order to enrol in the unit. It is recommended that students take the core unit in their second year.

## Other American Studies Units

**T**he contributing departments offer more than twenty units of study focused on the United States, not all of which will be offered in any given year. Units in History and English are generally taught once every two years, ensuring students will have a wide range of choices from which to construct a major.

### Cross-listed units of study on offer in 2008

- ARHT2657 Contemporary Hollywood
- ENGL2603 American Literature: Imagining America
- ENGL2617 Postmodernism
- ENGL2627 Reading Sexuality
- GOVT2445 American Politics and Foreign Policy
- HSTY2609 African-American History and Culture
- HSTY2634 Columbus to Lincoln: America Before 1865
- HSTY2656 A House Divided: The American Civil War
- HSTY2670 New York, New York
- HSTY2671 Law and Order in Modern America
- MUSC2666 A Global Sound: African American Music





### Other Cross-listed units of study currently taught in the Faculty of Arts

- ARHT2658 American Independent Cinema
- ENGL2613 Literature and Politics
- ENGL2635 Contemporary American Literature
- ENGL2638 Literature and Cinema
- ENGL2651 Transatlantic Imaginations
- ENGL3604 Cinematic Modernism
- HSTY2662 Atlantic World in the Age of Empire
- HSTY2663 Natives and Newcomers
- HSTY2666 American Revolutions
- HSTY2667 Politics and Cultures of US Imperialism

### Staff in American Studies

#### Dr Frances Clarke (History)

Nineteenth century American history; Gender relations; Cultural history; Civil War & Reconstruction

#### Dr Clare Corbould (History)

African American history; the Harlem Renaissance; transnational history

#### Dr Charles Fairchild (Music)

Popular music; the role of cultural intermediaries in the music industry, including studies of the "Idol" phenomenon and of music presenters at community radio stations in Australia, Canada and the USA

#### Dr Bruce Gardiner (English)

American literatures: Meso-American, Native American, African American, and Caribbean; and the literary traditions of New York State, New England, New Mexico, and the Tidewater South

#### Dr David Kelly (English)

America and American Cities; Modernism; Literature and Cinema

#### Dr Stefan Mattessich (English)

20th Century American literature and culture

#### Dr Michael McDonnell (History)

Early and Revolutionary Virginia; American Revolution; Native Americans in North America; cultural intermediaries and brokers; popular politics in the early Atlantic; labour, race, class and class struggles in the early Atlantic

#### Dr Stephen Robertson (History)

Twentieth century American social and cultural history; history of sexuality; legal history; history of childhood; hypertext and history

#### Dr Richard Smith (Art History and Film Studies)

Post Cold-War American and Hollywood cinema, particularly action-suspense genres such as the hi-jack, the heist, and the escape

#### Professor Shane White (History)

African American History; history of New York City; cultural history

### Coordinator

#### Dr Stephen Robertson

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#### Program website

<http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departs/americanstudies>

#### For more information

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