

HANDBOOK FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN AMERICAN STUDIES

2017-2018

*Covering the B.A. Major and Minor and IUG (B.A.- M.A.) in
American Studies*

John Haddad, Program Coordinator
Hannah B. Murray, Administrative Support Assistant
Cindy Leach, Administrative Support Assistant PENN
STATE HARRISBURG
W356 OLMSTED BUILDING
777 WEST HARRISBURG PIKE
MIDDLETOWN, PA 17057-4898
(717) 948-6189, (717) 948-6724 FAX
amstd@psu.edu (e- mail)

Website: harrisburg.psu.edu/humanities/american-studies

Facebook: facebook.com/AmericanStudies Twitter:

[@psuAMSTD](https://twitter.com/psuAMSTD) Yammer:

americanstudies+psu.edu@yammer.com



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Welcome to the American Studies Program

American Studies as an academic field is vibrant and global in scope, with over 300 degree-granting institutions. At the undergraduate level, we offer both a major and minor in American Studies. Distinctions of our program among these institutions is our long experience since 1966 in American Studies education when the first AMSTD courses were offered and our prime location in the heart of one of America's best known cultural and historic regions near Pennsylvania's capital. The Program also includes students working toward the M.A., Ph.D., and two certificates. The first doctoral cohort in American Studies at Penn State Harrisburg began in fall 2009 and the M.A. program traces its beginning to 1972. We cover America broadly, with concentrations on (1) heritage and museum studies; (2) interdisciplinary history and politics; (3) folk and popular culture; (4) society and ethnography; and (5) environmental, urban, and regional studies.

We view American Studies as a discipline with its own theories, methods, and applications and a goal of interpreting the American cultural experience. Toward that end, we claim specialty areas in material and visual culture (art, architecture, craft, landscape, food, clothing, medicine); race, gender and ethnicity (particularly Pennsylvania-German, African- American, Asian-American, East-European and Jewish-American), and regional and local studies (especially Pennsylvania and the Middle Atlantic region).

Most of our courses are managed directly by the program, which is housed in the School of Humanities. The courses will have the "AM ST" prefix, as you will see when you examine the Schedule of Classes (schedule.psu.edu). This organizational arrangement means that our faculty members are committed to American Studies and not any other "home" department. The program is flexible, allowing you to take courses related to American Studies in other programs, and to design a plan of study addressing your research areas. It is also easy for students in the honors program to integrate their studies with an American Studies major.

The Program builds community among students, faculty, staff, and the public in various ways besides courses. We have an active public outreach program, including lectures, conferences, workshops, site visits, exhibitions, festivals, publications, and social gatherings. We have a comprehensive program website at harrisburg.psu.edu/humanities/american-studies.

Other forms of communication include a newsletter issued once each semester and an external listserv that keeps you informed of program announcements, job opportunities, and regional activities in addition to hosting discussions on American Studies issues. We also have interactive Facebook pages labeled "American Studies at Penn State," "Folklore and Folklife Studies at Penn State," "Public Heritage @ PSU Harrisburg," "Encyclopedia of American Studies," and "Eastern American Studies Association" that you can access. To subscribe to the external listserv, go to groups.yahoo.com/group/amstd-hbg/join. You will receive messages directly to the email address you specify, and you can have them received individually or in a daily digest. We also post brief announcements to a Twitter account at [@psuAMSTD \(Penn State AMSTD\)](https://twitter.com/psuAMSTD). In addition, we participate in Penn State's social media site called "Yammer" at yammer.psu.edu.

Goals and Objectives of the Program

The American Studies Program at Penn State Harrisburg harbors three major goals that it strives to achieve through its course offerings, advising, and supervision of student research and internships.

- **Goal 1:** *To advance the documentation and interpretation of the American experience, past and present, through research with a variety of evidence, including objects, still and moving images, practices and performances, and oral and written texts.*

Corresponding Objective: To examine multiple forms of evidence including objects, images, events, and texts to identify themes, ideas, patterns, scenes, and sources of American experience in a historical period, geographical and environmental area, or social and cultural group.

- **Goal 2:** *To build on the intellectual legacy of American Studies as an interdisciplinary movement and emerging discipline with its own theories, methods, and applications.*

Corresponding Objective: To identify major movements and approaches in the study of the American experience and provide major scholarly bibliographic sources for those movements and approaches, and to discuss causes, consequences, contexts, and correlations of American practices and performances using American Studies methodology such as historical and geographical comparison, symbolic and systematic analysis, ethnography, and rhetorical and literary criticism.

- **Goal 3:** *To prepare students for careers in American Studies by developing knowledge, skills, attitudes, and ethics that can be applied to work in schools, archives, museums, galleries, media organizations, and governmental, commercial, and cultural agencies.*

Corresponding Objective: To effectively communicate American Studies perspectives in scholarly and public writing, exhibition, community programming, oral presentation, and media presentation.

Part 1: Description of Undergraduate Program Degrees

The Major in American Studies (B.A.)

The following is a copy of the information posted in the Undergraduate Bulletin, which is the official guide to Penn State degrees. See bulletins.psu.edu/undergrad/programs/baccalaureate/A/AM%20ST. For general advising questions, consult the undergraduate advising handbook at handbook.psu.edu/. Other resources can be found at the academic advising portal at advising.psu.edu/.

American Studies

Abington College (AMSAB)

Penn State Harrisburg (AMSCA)

University College (AMSCC): Penn State Brandywine

Professor John Haddad, *Chair, American Studies Program*

This interdisciplinary major is designed to provide students with an integrated and critical knowledge of American culture, drawing on courses in American Studies and in the traditional disciplines and culminating in two senior seminars. A number of interests may be pursued within the major, including popular culture, art, technology, business, law, archives, museology, and conservation. The major helps prepare students for careers in business, teaching, government, and a number of other areas, and for enrollment in law and other professional programs. For entrance into the major, the following must be met:

1. At the end of the sophomore year, any student in good standing may gain entrance into the major without having completed specific courses.
2. Any student seeking entrance during the fifth semester will be granted entrance at the discretion of the American Studies Committee and/or Director following evaluation of the student's record.
3. Any student seeking entrance during or after the sixth semester will be expected to have completed at least 12 credits, which may be counted toward the major in American Studies. For the B.A. degree in American Studies, a minimum of 123 credits is required.

For more information, see harrisburg.psu.edu/programs/bachelor-arts-american-studies

Scheduling Recommendation by Semester Standing suggested below

GENERAL EDUCATION: 45 credits

(See description of General Education in this bulletin.)

FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR:

(Included in ELECTIVES or GENERAL EDUCATION course selection)

UNITED STATES CULTURES AND INTERNATIONAL CULTURES:

(Included in ELECTIVES, GENERAL EDUCATION course selection, or REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR)

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM:

(Included in REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR)

ELECTIVES: 21 credits

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: 24 credits

(3 of these 24 credits are included in the REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR, GENERAL EDUCATION, or ELECTIVES and 0-12 credits are included in ELECTIVES if foreign language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.)

(See description of Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements in this bulletin.)

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR: 33 credits**PRESCRIBED COURSES** (6 credits)

AM ST 491W(6) (Semesters 5-8)

ADDITIONAL COURSES (3 credits)

AM ST 100 GH(3) or AM ST 100Y GH(3) (Semesters 1-4)

SUPPORTING COURSES AND RELATED AREAS (24 credits)

(Include 12 credits at the 400 level distributed in at least two of the areas.)

Select 9 credits in each of two of the following areas; select 6 credits in one other of the areas: (Semesters 3-8)

- a. American literature
- b. American history
- c. American art, philosophy, and religion (humanities)
- d. American social sciences

Sample Academic Plan for American Studies Major

(See harrisburg.psu.edu/raps/american-studies-amsca-recommended-academic-plan for table view)

Semester 1

Course	Credits
Total Credits	14.5-15.5
ENGL 015 - Rhetoric and Composition or ENGL 30 - Honors Freshman Composition (GWS)	3.0
Quantification (GQ)	3.0
Humanities (GH)	3.0
Health and Physical Activity (GHA)	1.5
Foreign Language	4.0
First Year Seminar (FYS)	0-1.0

Semester 2

Course	Credits
Total Credits	16.0
Foreign Language	4.0
Humanities (GH)	3.0
Arts (GA)	3.0
Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS)	3.0
Natural Sciences (GN)	3.0

Semester 3

Course	Credits
Total Credits	17.5
Foreign Language	4.0
Quantification (GQ)	3.0
CAS 100 - Effective Speech (GWS)	3.0
Arts (GA)	3.0
Elective	3.0
Health and Physical Activity (GHA)	1.5

Semester 4

Course	Credits
Total Credits	15.0
AM ST 100 - Introduction to American Studies (GH;US)	3.0
ENGL 202B - Effective Writing: Writing in the Humanities (GWS)	3.0
Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS)	3.0
Natural Sciences (GN)	3.0
Bachelor of Arts Requirement: Knowledge Domain	3.0

Semester 5

Course	Credits
Total Credits	15.0
AM ST Supporting Course	3.0
400-level AM ST Supporting Course	3.0
Natural Sciences (Lab) (GN)	3.0
Bachelor of Arts Requirement: Other Cultures	3.0
Bachelor of Arts Requirement: Knowledge Domain	3.0

Semester 6

Course	Credits
Total Credits	15.0
AM ST Supporting Course	3.0
AM ST Supporting Course	3.0
400-level AM ST Supporting Course	3.0
Bachelor of Arts Requirement: Knowledge Domain	3.0
Elective	3.0

Semester 7

Course	Credits
Total Credits	15.0
AM ST 491W - American Themes, American Eras	3.0
400-level AM ST Supporting Course	3.0
AMST Supporting Course View AM ST Supporting Course Footnote(s)	3.0
Elective	3.0
Elective	3.0

Semester 8

Course	Credits
Total Credits	14.0-15.0
AM ST 491W - American Themes, American Eras	3.0
400-level AM ST Supporting Course	3.0
Elective	3.0
Elective	3.0
Elective	2.0-3.0

NOTES

Advising Notes

- GWS, GQ, GA, GH, GS, GN and GHA are codes used to identify General Education requirements.
- US, IL, and US;IL are codes used to designate courses that satisfy University United States/International Cultures requirements. All students are required to take one IL and one US course before graduation. A course designated as US;IL may be used as a US or an IL, not both.
- W suffix signifies the course satisfies the University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

Program Notes

AM ST supporting courses are distributed among arts, history, humanities, literature, and social sciences courses containing at least 50% American content. Students take three courses each from two areas and two courses from a third.

At least 12 of these credits are at the 400 level.

A minimum of 123 credits is required.

Symbol Notes

Course is an Entrance-to-Major requirement.

* Course requires a grade of 'C' or better.

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirements.

^ ENGL 202 B is recommended for American Studies majors.

^^ AM ST 491W is to be taken as two separate offerings.

Integrated B.A./M.A. in American Studies

The American Studies Program offers an integrated B.A./M.A. program that is designed to allow academically superior baccalaureate students enrolled in the American Studies major to obtain both the B.A. and the M.A. degrees in American Studies within five years of study. The first two years of undergraduate coursework typically include the University General Education requirements and lower-level courses. In the third year, students typically take upper-division coursework in American Studies and define areas of interest. The fourth year involves graduate-level American Studies coursework including required courses in American Studies Theory and Methods (AM ST 500). The fifth and final year of the program typically consists of graduate coursework in American Studies including Seminar (AM ST 591) and identification of a research project that will culminate in the completion of a M.A. project (AM ST 580) or thesis (AM ST 600).

By encouraging greater depth and focus in the course of study beginning in the third undergraduate year, this program will help the student more clearly define his/her area of interest and expertise in the broad field of American Studies. As a result, long-range academic planning for exceptional students pursuing doctoral degrees or other professional goals after leaving Penn State will be greatly enhanced. For most students, the total time required to reach completion of the higher degree will be shortened by about a year. The student will have earlier contact with the rigors of graduate study and with graduate faculty. The resources of the Graduate School are accessible to students accepted into the IUG program. Students in their third and fourth year of study with IUG status benefit from their association with graduate students whose level of work parallel their own.

For the IUG American Studies B.A./M.A. degree, a minimum of 123 credits are required for the B.A. and a minimum of 30–33 credits for the M.A. (30 for non-thesis; 33 for thesis). Twelve credits at the 400 level or higher, in consultation with the adviser, can apply to both the B.A. and M.A. degrees; at least 6 of these 12 credits must be at the 500-level.

If for any reason a student admitted to the B.A./M.A. program is unable to complete the requirement for the Master of Arts degree program in American Studies, the student will be permitted to receive the B.A. degree assuming all degree requirements have been satisfactorily completed.

Admission Requirements

The number of openings in the integrated B.A./M.A. program is limited. Admission will be selective based on specific criteria and the unqualified recommendation of faculty. Applicants to the integrated program:

1. Must be enrolled in the American Studies B.A. program and meet the admission requirements of the American Studies M.A. program.
2. Must apply and be admitted to the Graduate School.
3. Shall be admitted no earlier than the beginning of the third semester of undergraduate study at Penn State (regardless of transfer or AP credits accumulated prior to enrollment) and no later than the end of the second week of the semester preceding the semester of expected conferral of the undergraduate degree, as specified in the proposed IUG plan of study.
4. Must have completed at least one 400-level American Studies course (AM ST prefix) with a grade of A.
5. Must submit transcript(s) of previous undergraduate work, recommendations from two faculty members, writing sample, and statement of goals.
6. Must have an overall GPA at or above 3.3 (on a 4.0 scale) in undergraduate coursework and a GPA at or above 3.5 in all coursework completed for the American Studies major.
7. Must present a plan of study approved by the student's adviser in the application process.

Course Load

As many as 12 of the credits required for the master's degree may be applied to both undergraduate and graduate programs. The courses to be double counted are often:

AM ST 491W (two seminars on different topics)—6 credits during the student's fourth (senior) year

AM ST 500 —3 credits during the student's fourth (senior) year

AM ST 591—3 credits during the student's fifth year

With the approval of the student's adviser, students may take American Studies courses from the 100 to 400 levels at Penn State campuses other than Harrisburg, but 500-level courses must be taken at the Harrisburg campus.

For more information, see
harrisburg.psu.edu/programs/integrated-ba-ma-degree-american-studies

Sample Sequence of Coursework

A typical sequence of coursework for the integrated program would appear as follows (AM ST 491W, AM ST 500, and AM ST 591 are applied to both undergraduate and graduate degree programs):

YEAR	FALL	SPRING	
3rd (Junior)	AM ST 100 3	AM ST supporting course 3	
	AM ST supporting course 3	400-level AM ST course 3	
	BA Requirement: Other Cultures 3	400-level AM ST course 3	
	BA Requirement: Knowledge Domain 3	Elective 3	
	Elective 3	Elective 3	
	Total 15	Total 15	
4th (Senior)	AM ST 491W* 3	AM ST 491W* 3	
	400-level AM ST course 3	400 level AM ST course 3	
	400-level AM ST supporting course 3	AM ST 500* 3	
	Elective 3	500 level AM ST course 3	
	Elective 3	Elective 3	
	Total 15	Total 15	
5th (Graduate)	500-level AM ST course 3	500-level AM ST course 3	
	500-level AM ST course 3	AM ST 580 or AM ST 600 3-6	
	500-level AM ST course 3	AM ST 591* 3	
	Total 9	Total 9-12	

*Satisfies requirements for both the undergraduate and graduate program for a total of 12 credits

As stated in the Graduate Bulletin, a minimum grade-point average of 3.00 for work done at the University is required for graduation and to maintain good academic standing. See bulletins.psu.edu/bulletins/whitebook/degree_requirements.cfm?section=masters.

[1] A student enrolled in this major must receive a grade of C or better, as specified in Senate Policy 82-44.

Integration of the IUG with Honors Program

Students in the undergraduate honors programs (Capital College and Schreyer Honors College) are eligible for the IUG program and may have a different schedule from the one listed above. See the director of the honors program for details. harrisburg.psu.edu/programs/honors-program

The Minor

American Studies Minor

Capital College (AMSTD)

Capital College – John Haddad, jrh36@psu.edu

Abington College - Thomas Smith, trs8@psu.edu

Penn State Brandywine - Julie Gallagher, jag63@psu.edu

Penn State Fayette - Jay Precht, jhp21@psu.edu

Penn State York - Robert Farrell, jrf10@psu.edu

This interdisciplinary minor is designed for students who want to complement their major program. American Studies is an interdisciplinary field that explores the patterns of life and thought of the American peoples, past and present. American Studies helps students prepare for further study or careers in education, government, business, science, communication, law, museums, historical and cultural agencies, and archives. Internships are available for qualified students in American Studies. The internship is an extension of the student's academic studies and is an opportunity to gain practical experience.

A student seeking admission to the American Studies Minor must first be admitted to a major at Penn State. Upon admission, a Minor Adviser will be appointed from within the American Studies faculty to guide the student. For the American Studies Minor, a total of 18 credits is required. At least 6 credits must be at the 400 level.

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR: 18 credits

PRESCRIBED COURSES (3 credits)

AM ST 491W(3) (Sem: 5-8)

ADDITIONAL COURSES (15 credits)

AM ST 100 GH;US(3) or AM ST 100W GH(3) (Sem: 1-4)

Select 12 credits from any American Studies offerings (AM ST) or from courses related to American Studies chosen from a list provided by the college. At least six of those credits must be at the 400 level. Substitutions must be approved by the American Studies Program head at the appropriate college. (Sem: 5-8)

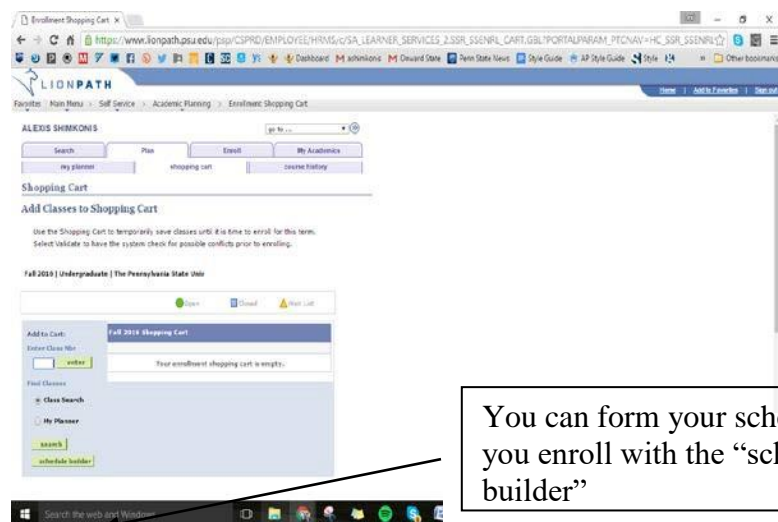
For more information, see harrisburg.psu.edu/programs/minor-american-studies

Part 2: Program Logistics

Registering for Courses and Add/Drop

You can register for courses (1) in person or (2) on the Internet.

1. To register in person go to the Enrollment Services Office in the Swatara Building (M-T 8 am-6pm, W-F, 8 am-5 pm). Some actions need to be done in person such as enrolling in closed courses and duplicate course override. For more information, call the Enrollment Services Office at 717-948-6020 or check the registrar's website at registrar.psu.edu. This site also has forms, including the registration drop/add form reproduced after this section.
2. To register on the Internet, you will need a Penn State Access Account (user ID and password). If you do not have an Access Account, one may be obtained through the Computer Center, E303 Olmsted Building. You will need to show a photo ID such as a driver's license. In Fall 2016, the university began using LionPath (lionpath.psu.edu) for course registration, view textbooks, academic advising, financial aid, degree planning, and student records. Tutorials are available at lionpathsupport.psu.edu/help/undergraduateparent/. Before you can use it, you need to sign the consent to do business electronically (tutorials.lionpath.psu.edu/public/Docs/Consent.pdf), sign the financial responsibility agreement (tutorials.lionpath.psu.edu/public/Docs/FRA.pdf) as part of the Pre-Registration Activity Guide, fill out the Fall 2016 Pre-Registration Activity Guide and update your contact and directory information. Then you can view the Schedule of Classes and access the Schedule Builder to search for classes and compare possible scheduling combinations. It is more extensive than the previous system of elion but don't worry, you'll get the hang of it, and there is a lot of support available.



Screen shot of LionPath page for registration. Note that you create a “shopping cart” of classes. There is a search function for the Schedule of Classes.

You can form your schedule before you enroll with the “schedule builder”

To add or drop courses after the pre-registration period is over, enrolling with permission in closed courses, or for enrolling in “controlled” courses (independent studies, internships), you might need to fill out a drop-add form such as the following and submit it to the Enrollment Services office. Electronic copies are available at registrar.psu.edu/student_forms/dropadd.pdf. Remember that for controlled courses, the staff assistant needs to enroll you.

PENN STATE HARRISBURG
REGISTRATION/DROP/ADD

_____ 9- ____ - ____

NAME (LAST,FIRST,MI)

PSU ID NUMBER

____ SPRING ____ SUMMER ____ FALL ____

ADD COURSES

SCHEDULE NUMBER	COURSE ABBREV.	COURSE NUMBER	SECTION	CREDITS

DROP COURSES

SCHEDULE NUMBER	COURSE ABBREV.	COURSE NUMBER	SECTION	CREDITS

The Degree Audit

A degree audit is a computer-generated analysis in LionPath's Advisor Center online that enables the student and his/her adviser to assess the student's academic progress and unfulfilled baccalaureate, associate degree or minor requirements. The audit is a valuable tool for academic planning and course selection, because it matches the courses that the student has taken with the requirements of his/her degree program or anticipated program.

Advising and the Audit

When reviewing an audit, the student should consult with an adviser for several reasons. If the audit identifies unfulfilled requirements, there are often several alternatives for satisfying these requirements. The student and adviser should discuss which courses to schedule based on the student's abilities, interests, and plans. Advising may also be helpful in determining the best combinations of courses to schedule each semester in order to meet requirements. In addition, advising is necessary because changes to the student's audit may be appropriate. (For example, when a course transfers from another institution and does not have an equivalent Penn State course, it is listed on the audit as an elective. When reviewed, it may be found to meet a degree requirement.)

The degree audit is not the student's official University academic record. The transcript is the official record of completed work. For more information on transcripts, see handbook.psu.edu/content/transcripts

Deferred Grades

Most instructors will advise you against taking deferred grades, but instances arise when you may need to hand in work after the deadline for the semester. Discuss the matter with your professor. Keep in mind that you need to submit your work to the instructor well ahead of the deadline to give him or her time for evaluation. Be sure to work out your timetable with the instructor. See the undergraduate advising handbook for details on deadlines and procedures: handbook.psu.edu/content/deferred-grade. If you miss the deadline, the grade automatically becomes a failing grade of "F." Note these policies regarding deferred grades (registrar.psu.edu/grades/deferred.cfm)

- Approval needs to be granted prior to the beginning of the final exam period of the semester in which the course is taken.
- Approval for a deferred grade must be given by the instructor of the course. If the instructor cannot be reached, authorization may be given by the student's college dean.
- A "DF" symbol will be entered on the student's transcript in place of a grade.
- Courses with a deferred grade will not be included in the grade-point average calculations.

Internships in American Studies

Internship FAQ

What is an internship? An internship is a supervised apprenticeship for students. An intern, like an apprentice, is learning some of the skills required in a profession, as well as receiving experience in an institutional environment. An internship is unique in giving you the chance to gain work experience at the same time as you earn academic credits. It gives you independence and responsibilities outside the classroom. It may even let you get your foot in the door where you want to be employed.

What are some examples? Recently, our Penn State Harrisburg students catalogued records at the State Archives, the York County Heritage Trust, a local church, and the Military History Institute; they accessioned and curated artifacts at the Commonwealth Conservation Center, the Reading Museum, and the State Museum; they designed and installed exhibits at the Mifflinburg Buggy Museum, the Lancaster Heritage Center, and the Museum of Civil War Medicine; they developed and implemented educational programs for the Landis Valley Museum and the Hershey Museum; and they produced web-based instructional materials for the Bureau of Historic Preservation. They have worked at major venues such as the Archives of American Art and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. There are also some internships available on campus within the College Archives and the centers for Pennsylvania Culture Studies and Holocaust and Jewish Studies. As you can see, interns have worked not only in museums and archives, but also in non-profit organizations and governmental bodies. The key is that the internship site and its activities be clearly related to a student's academic program and career goals.

What would not qualify as an internship? An assignment where the experience is less than professional would not be acceptable as an internship. For example, you would not want to be working as a clerk, doing the same thing day after day and not learning any advanced skills. Neither should an intern be simply a tour guide, a docent, or a volunteer. While such positions are vital to the operations of an institution, they do not make for satisfactory internships because they do not normally involve the necessary responsibility, authority, and educational opportunities. However, if you would propose to be a leader in the training or management of guides, docents, and volunteers, or if you were to design new educational programs or materials for them to present to the public, then that could be an acceptable internship assignment. If you are currently employed at an institution, you are not eligible for an internship at that same institution.

Are there eligibility requirements? If you are an undergraduate graduate student, you should have 18 credits completed.

How many credits can be earned? AM ST 495, American Studies Internship counts for 3 credits, but up to 6 may be permitted under special circumstances.

How much does an internship cost? The tuition rates for undergraduate and graduate internship credits are the same as those for other undergraduate and graduate course credits.

Can interns get paid? Occasionally, interns are paid a wage by the institutions where they work. The Pennsylvania House of Representatives offers a limited number of paid archival internships, for which there are many applicants from across the state.

house.state.pa.us/BMC/archives/internship.cfm. Another one is the Keystone Internship Program at phmc.pa.gov/About/Join/Pages/Internships.aspx. Generally speaking, however, paid internships are rare.

How much time does an internship take? Because an internship is counted the same number of credits as a regular course, it is fair to say that an internship should take about the same amount of your time as a course would. Penn State calculates that in a typical course, a student spends about 3 hours per week in class and about twice that many hours outside class doing homework and research. In a semester, that would be about 45 hours in class and 90 hours outside class. Therefore, you should plan on spending about 135 hours, more or less, on your internship. That translates to about one eight-hour day per week during a semester, or about two and a half days per week during a six-week summer session. You and your site supervisor can arrange your work schedule to suit your mutual convenience, so long as you total about 135 hours.

How is an internship set up? Typically, students already have a good idea where they want to do their internship, and even what they want to do, before they actually file their application. They have usually scouted a site and spoken with the person who supervises interns there. Students who have only a vague idea of where they want to work or what they want to do can get specific advice and referrals from the American Studies Program Chair. The Chair can show you examples of past internships. But it is not the Chair's responsibility to escort you to the site and set you up. Indeed, you need to show initiative and take responsibility in finding an internship, just as you will need to show those traits in actually working as an intern. You will need to establish a relationship with the Site Supervisor and work out a clear agreement on your duties and goals. The Program Chair is available for consultation anytime, and has to approve the details of the arrangement you have set up with the institution where you will intern.

How does a student register for an internship? First, make an appointment to see the American Studies Program Chair to discuss your plans and the internship requirements. Then fill out the attached application form. If you need another form, you can get it from the American Studies secretary in W356, or you can download it from our American Studies website. On the form, you will need to describe your proposed internship in sufficient detail, including the arrangements you have made with your host institution. You will need to have the signed approval of your Site Supervisor and the Program Chair. Finally, your completed and approved application should be returned to the staff assistant, who will take care of registering you for the course. You will need to have your application returned before the school term begins or within a week after classes start.

How is an intern graded? The professor of record assigns you a grade at the end of the term in which your project is completed. The grade is based on the professor's inspection of a portfolio of materials you submit thoroughly documenting your internship accomplishments and on the professor's consultation with your Site Supervisor. The Program Chair will show you examples of successful portfolios when you meet to discuss your internship. The portfolio typically contains a daily journal that you have kept. This journal not only records what you have done,

but shows your reflections on your training and work. It will contain copies of any documents you have used or created. It may contain photographs of your site or your exhibit.

Am I covered by insurance? You are not insured under the university's general liability program covering auto accidents, falls, property damage, and the like. Unpaid interns are not eligible for workmen's compensation if injured. If you are interested, appropriate insurance might be purchased, or your student health insurance or your (or from your parents or partners) homeowner's insurance may provide coverage for you.

Is there anything else to know? You need to realize that, as an intern, while you are not an agent of the university, you are representing Penn State and should behave accordingly. You need to abide by all the regulations that govern the institution and the site where you are interning. If the institution where you are interning wants you to sign any agreements in advance, you should bring these to us for legal review, as they may try to commit you or the university to inappropriate responsibilities. In sum, if any problems along these lines arise, or if you anticipate any problems, consult with your Site Supervisor and professor of record immediately.



Left: Aubrey Grosser at Civil War Museum.
Above: Kelli Curtin installing exhibit at
Center for Holocaust and Jewish Studies.

Sample Internship Application

(Reproduce on your Word Processing Program)

_____ AM ST 495 Internship Date of application_____

Academic Term for which internship is scheduled_____Credits registered (normally 3)_____

Your name_____PSU ID#_____

Local mailing address_____

Local phone and e-mail address_____

Grade point average and credits completed_____

Your Academic adviser_____

Internship site, street address, URL, and contact information_____

Brief description of proposed internship_____

(Include a description of your proposed internship, including the tasks you will accomplish and the skills you will acquire. INCLUDE THE WORK SCHEDULE with planed supervisor meetings and your anticipated completion date. Include a bibliography of works you may need to consult during your training. Attach a brochure for the site if available.)

Site Supervisor's name_____

Site Supervisor's mailing address_____

Site Supervisor's phone and e-mail address_____

Approval signatures:

Student's Adviser _____

Professor of Record_____

Site Supervisor_____

American Studies Program Chair_____

School of Humanities Director_____

Independent Studies

Students take independent studies (AM ST 496) **with permission of an instructor and adviser** to work on a focused area of interest, often involving field projects, not covered in our normal course offerings. Independent studies are meant to be used in **special circumstances**, usually after you take several courses in the program and have a focused project you are working toward. You can take up to 9 credits of independent studies (three 3-credit courses). It should be an area in which a faculty member in American Studies has expertise so as to supervise the studies. The requirements of the independent study should be equivalent to a regular course. It should have at least 10 meetings with the supervisor, involve readings and scholarship, and result in an evaluated production (essays, video, exhibit). Faculty members can supervise no more than three special courses such as readings courses and independent studies, and this policy might limit the availability of courses. It is advisable to check with the instructor well in advance of the start of the semester. Discuss your idea for an independent study and readings class with your adviser and the supervisor well ahead of registration (usually in the last two months of the previous semester). You will need to prepare on a word processor a form, which is reproduced in this handbook. Take time to prepare a professional-looking presentation, because the form will need approval and will be eventually placed in your file. This means typing or preparing on word processor your proposal, and attaching bibliography, syllabus, and supporting materials. You will need the signatures of your adviser and supervisor along with that of the program director on the proposal. Forms are available in the Humanities Suite in W356 Olmsted Building or you can prepare your own form on your word processor based on the sample. Please note the following guidelines:

Schedule #: Don't fill this in. One will be assigned to you by the Records office.

Semester Classification: Indicate from your degree audit the semester level you are in. An example is 5th Semester UG equivalent to the beginning of your junior year.

Title and Description of Study: Give your work a brief title that expresses the focus of the study. The description can be one or two sentences that describes the content of the study. It should appear to be a topic that does NOT duplicate an existing course.

Study Objectives: Describe what you want to get out of your study. For instance, you may cite increasing familiarity with the literature; acquiring competency in statistical analysis; gaining skills in fieldwork. Use active verbs to describe relevant, measurable goals.

Study Procedures: Describe the assignments in the study, such as preparation of questionnaire, bibliographic essay, research paper of 20 pages. Describe contact with instructor, including meetings, e-mail, and/or pictel/phone conferencing.

Syllabus and Bibliography: Be sure to attach on separate sheets the readings you have planned and the outline of the study, or syllabus of your meetings with the instructor.

Number of Meetings: You should plan on at least 10 meetings. The meetings can include discussions via Skype, chat, and instant message media.

Sample Independent Study Form

(Reproduce on your word processing program)

PETITION FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY

AM ST 496 Credits _____ Semester _____ Year _____

Student _____ Semester Classification _____

PS ID # _____ Current Date _____

Title and Description of Study:

Study Objectives:

Study Procedures:

Syllabus. Attach separately.

Bibliography. Attach separately.

Expected Number of Meetings with Study Director:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES (print name with signature):

Independent Study Director

Student's Assigned Adviser

Jurisdictional Program Head

THIS PETITION FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO THE STAFF ASSISTANT IN W356, OLMSTED BUILDING. REGISTRATION CANNOT BE PROCESSED WITHOUT A COMPLETED FORM.

The Faculty

[Anthony Bak Buccitelli](#), Assistant Professor of American Studies and Communications, received his Ph.D. in American and New England Studies from Boston University in 2012. He holds an M.A. in Folklore from the University of California, Berkeley. He joined the American Studies faculty at Penn State Harrisburg in 2012. He is editor of the online journals, *New Errands* and *The Americanist* and is on the editorial boards of *Alternative Spirituality and Religions Review* and *New Directions in Folklore*. He has also served on the Council of the New England American Studies Association and the Executive Committee of the Western States Folklore Society. He was the recipient of an Angela J. and James J. Rallis Memorial Award and the Alice M. Brennan Humanities Award in 2010, given by the Humanities Foundation at Boston University, and the Oberlin College Fellowship for Alumni in 2009. He is the author of *Remembering Our Town: Social Memory, Folklore, and (Trans) Locality in Ethnic Neighborhoods* published by the University of Wisconsin Press (2016). It examines the interrelationship of ethnicity and place identity in the vernacular memory practices of urban ethnic neighborhoods. His other publications include "Performance 2.0: Observations Toward a Theory of the Digital Performance of Folklore" in *Folk Culture in the Digital Age* (Utah State University Press, 2012), journal articles on digital hyperlocality, and reference entries for *Multicultural America: A Multicultural Encyclopedia* and *Celebrating Latino Folklore: An Encyclopedia of Cultural Traditions*. His research and teaching areas include digital culture, consumer culture, history of technology and mass media, folk narrative, festive culture, space and place, ethnic and urban history and culture, and vernacular religion.

[Charity Fox](#), Assistant Professor of American Studies and Gender Studies, received her Ph.D. in American Studies from The George Washington University, M.L.A. in History and Literature from the University of Pennsylvania, and B.A. in History and Political Science from the University of Pennsylvania. Her research and teaching focus on intersections of gender, class, race, and everyday cultures in 20th and 21st century American popular culture, particularly on the construction of ideal and aspirational gender performances and cultural understandings of the self and others through television, film, popular literature, and journalism. Her work is informed by American Studies frameworks of gender, race, class, identity, and nationalism as well as by theories of cultural ritual, narratology, and ideology in mass-media products. Fox's current book project, *Before Blackwater: Mercenaries and Masculinities in the Popular Culture of the Cold War*, examines how cultural products from the Cold War categorize and glorify mercenary and warrior masculinities. She teaches graduate seminars on gender and culture and problems in American Studies, along with undergraduate courses in women's studies and American themes and eras.

[John R. Haddad](#), is Undergraduate Program Coordinator and Professor of American Studies and Popular Culture. He received his Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin in 2002. He received an M.A. in English from Yale in 1996 and an A.B. from Harvard University. While teaching in China and Japan, Dr. Haddad developed an interest in Asia that is reflected in his scholarly interests. His research has investigated ways Americans learned about China in the nineteenth century: museum exhibits, trade objects, travel writing, missionary literature, international expositions, magic lantern shows, and moving pictures. His first book, *The Romance of China: Excursions to China in U.S. Culture, 1776-1876*, was published by Columbia University Press in 2006. In 2010-2011, he held a Fulbright grant for research and teaching at the University of Hong Kong. His second book, *America's First Adventure in China: Trade, Treaties, Opium, and Salvation* (2014) looks at contact between Americans and the Chinese in Hong Kong during the nineteenth century. He serves as newsletter editor for the Eastern American Studies Association and has served as the national chair of the American Studies Association's committee on regional chapters. His teaching and research interests include popular culture, literature, nineteenth-century America, and Asian American studies.

[Charles Kupfer](#), Associate Professor of American Studies and History, received his Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin in 1998. He has taught at Michigan State University and the University of Texas and has experience as a professional journalist. He has teaching and research specialties in twentieth-century American history and culture, sports history, political history, and mass media. He has published the books *We Felt the Flames: Hitler's Blitzkrieg, America's Story* and *Indomitable Will: Turning Defeat into Victory from Pearl Harbor to Midway*. He also has book chapters in *Cold War American West, 1945-1989* and *Media in the Classroom*. His academic articles have appeared in such journals as *Prospects: An Annual of American Cultural Studies*, *The International Journal of the History of Sports*, and *Pennsylvania History*. He is completing a book project examining the media coverage of the Pacific campaign during WWII. He is on the editorial board of the journal *Iron Game History: The Journal of Physical Culture* and a contributor to the *Encyclopedia of American Folklife*. Kupfer is past president of the Eastern American Studies Association. He is active in various Commonwealth Public Heritage initiatives, serving on the Pennsylvania Historical Marker Commission, the Friends of Fort Hunter Board of Directors, and as Penn State Harrisburg American Studies Program liaison to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. He teaches courses on twentieth century America, twenty-first century America, the history of sports, and problems in American Studies.

[Anne Verplanck](#), Associate Professor of American Studies and Heritage Studies, received her Ph.D. in American Studies from the College of William and Mary in 1996 and joined the American Studies faculty at Penn State Harrisburg in 2010. She has previously taught in the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture, George Washington University, and George Mason University. She has museum and public heritage experience as Curator of Prints and Paintings at the Winterthur Museum, Marion and Dorothy Brewington Curator of Maritime Collections at the Maryland Historical Society, Guest Curator at the National Portrait Gallery, and Assistant Curator at Independence National Historical Park. She is the co-editor of the book *Quaker Aesthetics: Reflections on a Quaker Ethic in American Design and Consumption* published by the University of Pennsylvania Press and contributor to *American Material Culture: The Shape of the Field* (edited by Ann Smart Martin and J. Ritchie Garrison) and *Winterthur Portfolio*. Her research and teaching areas include museum and public heritage studies, early America, material and visual culture, and urban studies.

[David Witwer](#), Professor of American Studies and History, received the Ph.D. from Brown University in History. He previously taught at Lycoming College. He is the author of *Corruption and Reform in the Teamsters Union*, *Corruption and Reform in the Teamsters Union*, and *Shadow of the Racketeer: Scandal in Organized Labor*, all published by the University of Illinois Press. Witwer serves on the editorial board of the journal *Labor History* and in addition to his three books, he has published articles in the *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Social History*, *Journal of Women's History*, *Social Science History*, *Journalism History*, *Trends in Organized Crime*, *Criminal Justice Review*, and *International Labor and Working Class History*. In fall 2011 he held a resident fellowship from the Institute for Arts and Humanistic Studies at Penn State. In 2012 he served as program chair for the Pennsylvania Historical Association meeting in Harrisburg. He teaches courses on American labor and crime for the American Studies Program.

In addition to the core faculty, American Studies is fortunate to have one faculty member earn *emeritus* status in his retirement:

[Simon J. Bronner](#), Distinguished Professor of American Studies and Folklore, received his Ph.D. in Folklore and American Studies from Indiana University in 1981. He has been editor of the journals *Material Culture* and *Folklore Historian* and the book series *Material Worlds* for the University Press of Kentucky, *Pennsylvania German History and Culture* for Penn State Press, and *Jewish Cultural Studies* for Littman. He is the author of many books, including *Folklore: The Basics*; *Campus Traditions*; *Folklore from the Old-Time College to the Modern Mega-University*; *Explaining Traditions: Folk*

Behavior in Modern Culture; Killing Tradition: Inside Hunting and Animal Rights Controversies; Folk Nation: Folklore in the Creation of American Tradition; Following Tradition: Folklore in the Discourse of American Culture; Grasping Things: Folk Material Culture and Mass Society; Chain Carvers: Old Men Crafting Meaning; American Folklore Studies: An Intellectual History; American Children's Folklore (winner of the Opie Prize for best book on children's folklore); *Old-Time Music Makers of New York State* (winner of the John Ben Snow Prize for best book on upstate New York), and *Popularizing Pennsylvania: Henry W. Shoemaker and the Progressive Uses of Folklore and History*. In addition, he has edited numerous books, including a four-volume encyclopedia of American folklife, two-volume encyclopedia of American youth cultures, encyclopedia of Pennsylvania German history and culture, a cultural history of consumer society, folklife studies from the Gilded Age, the writing of Lafcadio Hearn, the essays of Alan Dundes, and volumes on American folklore and nationalism, creativity and tradition, and folk art and material culture. He has been invited all over the world to speak on his research, and won Penn State Harrisburg's awards for research, teaching, and service. In addition, he has received the Jordan Award for teaching from Penn State (1985), the Kenneth Goldstein Lifetime Achievement Award for Academic Leadership from the American Folklore Society (2015), and the Mary Turpie Prize from the American Studies Association for teaching, advising, and program development (1999). Dr. Bronner served as visiting distinguished professor of American Studies at the University of California at Davis in 1991, Fulbright Professor of American Studies at Osaka University in Japan during the 1996-1997 academic year, and Walt Whitman Distinguished Chair at Leiden University in the Netherlands in 2006. In 1997-1998 he served as Visiting Professor of Folklore and American Civilization at Harvard University, and in fall 2013 he was at Hong Kong University. His teaching and research interests are in folk and popular culture; material and visual culture; gender, sports, and masculinity studies; ethnic and religious studies; and American Studies theory and method.

For descriptions of the Faculty and Administration of the School of Humanities, see harrisburg.psu.edu/humanities/staff

The Staff

The School of Humanities provides administrative staff support for American Studies students and faculty. The main suite for American Studies is W356 Olmsted Building. To the left as you walk in to the suite is the desk of **Cindy Leach** (717-948-6189, CKL4@psu.edu) who is primarily responsible for undergraduate students. The main contact person for managing files, scheduling, and forms related to the American Studies graduate programs is **Hannah Murray** (717-948-6201, hbm5103@psu.edu). Her desk is in W356 to the right as you walk in the suite. **Taneile Fasnacht**, part-time assistant, in W351 is the staff person to whom assistants and wage- payroll students hand their time sheets. Also in that office is **Rachel Dean**, the administrative assistant for the School Director; she handles appointments and budget matters related to the School Director. Remember that the staff members do not provide advising. They will help you with forms and procedures for things like changing your major, changing your adviser, resume study, withdrawal, and independent studies, but seek out your adviser for academic questions and the Bursar's Office and financial aid for tuition and financial questions. The staff will be happy to refer you to the right person to get your questions answered. Don't hesitate to ask!

Center for Pennsylvania Culture Studies

The American Studies Program maintains a research center devoted to the study of Pennsylvania's cultural heritage. See: www.hbg.psu.edu/hum/paculture/index.php. Its files and holdings are available to you for your research in the Library and its offices are located in Church Hall, rooms 205-207. The library holdings contain a folklore archives, containing papers of students involving collections of Pennsylvania traditions and oral collections arranged by genre (proverbs, legends, etc.). The archive holdings are electronically indexed by location, occupation, subject, ethnic group, collector, and informant, among other fields. Other holdings include the Mac Barrick Collection at sites.psu.edu/folklib/ (strong in Pennsylvania beliefs and speech) and Pennsylvania Folklife Collection containing files on folk artists and projects from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the Institute for Cultural Partnerships (see harrisburg.psu.edu/news/folk-arts-preserving-pennsylvanias-cultural-past).

The John Yetter Collection has rare historic photographs of Steelton, Pennsylvania, which has been digitized for wider use (harrisburg.psu.edu/hum/paculture/photos.php). It has added oral history material on the civil rights movement in Harrisburg and on Holocaust survivors in the region. Check the center's website for other special projects and materials available on-line. hbg.psu.edu/hum/paculture/. In AY 2017-2018, Dr. Buccitelli will be the director.

Center for Holocaust and Jewish Studies

The American Studies Program manages Penn State's only Center for Holocaust and Jewish Studies. It is located on the first floor of the Library and includes an art gallery, media and exhibit area, and seminar room. Dr. Anthony Buccitelli serves as its director and works with a steering committee of faculty and staff. The Center works to bring people from the Central Pennsylvania region and the university together in a common interest of remembering and teaching the Holocaust and Jewish Studies. The primary mission is: (1) provide educational opportunities for teachers and students on the Holocaust and Jewish Studies, and (2) organize activities in these areas reaching out to the community and public.

Besides being an inviting physical space providing research materials in print and other media in the Penn State Harrisburg Library, it is actively involved in outreach programming such as public performances of music, drama, and dance; screenings of films along with discussions by their makers; and lectures and book talks with nationally recognized writers and researchers on the Holocaust and Jewish Studies. It is a research and teaching space for faculty, community members, and students, and also a creative space where the public can visit to be informed and inspired by music, literature, and art.

Courses and special events devoted to the Holocaust and Jewish Studies have long been important offerings at Penn State Harrisburg, and the creation of the center in 2007 served to coordinate all these efforts in a single location. The college working in conjunction with the Holocaust Resource Center in the Jewish community of Greater Harrisburg, has oral history tapes and documents collected from survivors and liberators in the region. These materials are not duplicated in any other institutions or media, and provide a resource for researchers, community members, students, and faculty. A feature of the room is the availability of oral histories with local survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust. They are available on DVDs which can be played in computers in the room. For more information, see harrisburg.psu.edu/chjs/. In AY 2017-2018, Dr. Kupfer will be the director.

Area Resources for Research and Internships

The Capital Region boasts many institutions with American Studies holdings that can help you with your research and have had connections to our program. In downtown Harrisburg, you'll find the State Library, State Archives, and State Museum. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission which oversees the State Museum also has offices and resources for historic preservation, photography, and archaeology. The Commission runs the Landis Valley Museum (formerly the State Farm Museum) near Lancaster which specializes in rural cultures of Pennsylvania, Cornwall Furnace, Railroad Museum, and Anthracite Museum, among others in Central Pennsylvania.

The Central Pennsylvania region has many historical societies from the city to the county level with document, photograph, and artifact collections for you to explore. We've had close ties, for instance, with the Historical Society of Dauphin County, Cumberland County Historical Society, York County Heritage Trust, and Middletown Historical Society. The National Park Service runs the Gettysburg Battlefield Site, a wonderful resource for American Studies research. In Hershey, you'll benefit from a visit to collections of the HersheyStory where alumni of the program are on the professional staff.

The State Capitol, which includes a preservation society, is also a resource you can rely on. Staffs for various agencies, lobbies, legislators, and political parties can provide valuable information. The House of Representatives has an archives, where several of our students have had internships and research projects house.state.pa.us/BMC/archives/internship.cfm.

American Studies Events, Awards, and Organizations

The American Studies Program together with the Center for Pennsylvania Culture Studies sponsors a number of events designed to enrich your American Studies experience. The Program kicks off the year with a reception open to all students, staff, and faculty. The American Studies lecture series brings to campus distinguished American Studies scholars to speak to the community. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Glassie In AY 2016-2017, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the campus on February 17, 2017, with one of its original faculty members and a giant in the field, Dr. Henry Glassie, professor emeritus at Indiana University.

The program is headquarters of the Eastern American Studies Association (harrisburg.psu.edu/eastern-american-studies-association) and sponsors an annual conference in different locations throughout the region. The meeting has been held in Harrisburg several times. Students can work on organization of the conference and are frequently presenters. The Association also coordinates the **American Studies Honors Society—Epsilon Alpha Kappa**. For details, see Dr. Buccitelli at abb20@psu.edu. EASA also holds an undergraduate round table at its annual meeting. See Dr. Haddad at jrh36@psu.edu for more information.

Students also have an organization, **the American Studies Student Association**, within Student Government and among its activities have been an American Studies Student Symposium, field trips, and workshops on timely topics. Those activities have included a workshop on getting published in American Studies; funding for a trip to an American Studies abroad; trip to Philadelphia ethnic museums; attendance at the American Studies Association meeting; and attendance at the American Folklore Society meeting. In 2016-2017, the president of the organization is Kiernan Gladman at kernangladman@gmail.com. Contact her for information on meetings and activities.

On an occasional basis, the program sponsors receptions to honor visiting guests or to reassert our community of students, staff, scholars, and friends. It also bestows prestigious student awards at the end of the academic year at an awards ceremony, including the George Wolf Award for Academic Excellence by an undergraduate student.

American Studies Program Information and Communication

As a student, you often need more information to absorb than this handbook can adequately describe, and we try to keep you abreast of what's happening in a timely fashion. At the beginning of each semester, we send out a newsletter to preview events for the upcoming months. We maintain a number of electronic communication sites on Facebook, Yahoo groups, Twitter, and Yammer, your convenience.

The faculty and staff are dedicated to answering your questions and resolving problems that arise. Don't hesitate to call and stop in during office hours. Be aware that if you call a faculty member and he or she doesn't answer after a few rings, you can leave a message on the "voice mail system" or push "0" to reach the secretary during office hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m., M - F). You can call the staff with questions on forms and procedures at 948-6201 or 948-6189 (School of Humanities), but you should reach out to faculty for academic advising.

Part 3: Useful Locations and Services Around Campus

The Library

Built in 2000, the library is a three-story structure equipped for computer technology, special collections, group study rooms, and multi-media areas. Check the library website at libraries.psu.edu for details. Searching for information in the library is done with the CAT, Penn State's electronic catalogue which is available on the World Wide Web from remote sites (cat.libraries.psu.edu) in addition to monitors in the library. With software from Penn State, you can bring your computer laptop to the library and access the Internet with connections at study tables or a wireless connection. You can also access the library catalogue through smart phones with a PSU Mobile link (wireless.psu.edu). You can find brochures and workshops on the systems at the library. Books you want from another campus are easily obtained by clicking "I want it" on line. A number of powerful databases, including library catalogues from all over the world, are available on-line through Penn State, and are often restricted to Penn State students, staff, and faculty. Check with the guides at work stations or the reference librarian for details. Probably most useful to you will be the *Encyclopedia of American Studies*, now available on-line, *The Making of America*, and *America: History and Life* which contains records of articles on history, literature, folklore, and language. Full-text databases include JSTOR and PROJECT MUSE. Other valuable databases in the library are ARTSTOR, eHRAF (Human Relations Area Files for comparative cultural research), ERIC (an educational resources database), GPO (government publications), Social Sciences Index, Sociological Abstracts, Art Index, African-American Biographical Index, PsycLIT (a psychological database), Ipoll, Lexus-Nexus (general information), and PAIS (Public Affairs Information Service), and Dissertation Abstracts.

You can also bring up libraries.psu.edu from your personal computer at home through the World Wide Web. You can get set up for remote access by downloading applications from

the ITS Penn State site (its.psu.edu). Access to the system requires your name and student ID. The library website can also be called up from a menu on the terminals in the computer labs in the basement of the Olmsted Building and in the library.

Books and periodicals aren't the only resources at the library. Those of you interested in film particularly will want to investigate the DVD collection of feature films and documentaries and movie databases at libraries.psu.edu. DVD players are available for viewing the material in the periodicals section of the library. The library also has a music collection on compact discs, and it is particularly good for American folk and traditional music.

Group Study and Presentation Rooms are available by reservation. Check with the Circulation Librarian. See the circulation staff for details if you are interested in this opportunity. The reference librarian will also tell you about on-line computer bibliographic searching and consulting available if you need this service.

Additional searching for books can be done through the electronic catalogues the library has for other libraries throughout the world. They are located on-line at the Penn State Libraries site. As a Penn State Harrisburg student you are likely to have borrowing privileges for work in other college libraries in the region. See the reference librarian for details.

Of special interest to American Studies students is the Alice Marshall Collection of Women's History Materials, John Yetter Collection of Steelton Photographs, Mac Barrick Collection of Regional Speech and Beliefs, and Archives of Pennsylvania Folklore and Ethnography which are housed in Special Collections on the third floor of the library. Other resources are found at the Center for Pennsylvania Culture Studies in Church Hall and its materials are housed in special collections.

The faculty members of the library are happy to help you use the facility and answer your reference questions. The faculty member responsible for American Studies students is [Heidi Abbey Mover](#). Library faculty members and staff have cooperated with our program to build an American Studies collection, so take advantage of what they have to offer.

The Computer Center

An important facility open to you is the Computer Center. Located in the basement of the Olmsted Building, the center has terminals on which you can call up word processing, spreadsheet programs, statistical databases, Penn State bulletin boards, electronic mail, and more. Printers are available to print out your work and scanners are available in C12. Check with the computer center for times of their workshops to become familiar with the equipment. Penn State primarily uses PCs, but a MAC lab is also available. The facility can be useful for research as well as preparation of papers and theses. Information on Penn State Harrisburg's computer services can be found on the web at harrisburg.psu.edu/its. Computers are also available in other locations, including the library and W225, but you should check the schedule maintained by IT for availability.

Studio Facilities

Video and Photography studios are available to students in the School of Humanities with appropriate training. Check with the manager of the studios for a tour of the facilities and information on their use. A recent addition is the “One Button Studio” in the library, rm 201C, of the library. It facilitates easy video recording without setups of lights and microphones. See mediacommons.psu.edu/locations/commonwealth/harrisburg/. Editing facilities are available on the first floor of the library.

Media Commons

Students often have need of audio and video equipment for their research and presentations. The library is the distribution center for the campus’s “media commons.” Equipment that is available for loan includes video and audio recorders and laptops. See mediacommons.psu.edu/locations/commonwealth/harrisburg/.

Student Activities and Facilities

We want you to enjoy your time in the program, so we want you to take advantage of the social and recreational opportunities at Penn State Harrisburg. The Capital Union Building with its gym, pool, racquetball courts, aerobics area, weight lifting area, and student center are available free to you. See the Rec Office about obtaining a locker.

The newest building on campus is the Student Enrichment Center which contains an auditorium, bookstore, student government offices, and a spiritual center. Another recent addition is the Educational Activities Building (EAB). Besides having classrooms, it also contains a small theater, which will be the location of productions.

Stacks, the food court, and Biscotti’s Coffee Shop are on the first floor of the Olmsted Building. Stacks includes a stage and special events room where presentations and concerts are often held.

The Student Activities Office is active in promoting a social and cultural atmosphere at Penn State Harrisburg. They sponsor events and exhibits in the Gallery Lounge, auditorium on the second floor of the Olmsted Building, LaGrone Center, and the Morrison Gallery. In addition to joining the American Studies Students Associations, you can join the International Affairs Association, Capital Alliance (LGBTQA), ethnic students organizations (Black Student Union, Chinese Student Association, Latino Student Union), From the Fallout Shelter (literary and arts magazine), Capital Times (newspaper), Outing Club, Parent Support Group, Pre-Law Club, WPSH Student Radio, and other special interest organizations which provide support and sponsor activities. See harrisburg.psu.edu/campus-life-and-intercultural-affairs/clubs-and-organizations.

The Marketing and Communication office keeps tracks of the various events on campus and you can obtain information on them (including the lecture series and special concerts) by signing up for its weekly newsletter and checking the news at hbg.psu.edu. You can also check the calendar website at harrisburg.psu.edu/calendar. If you have news of recent accomplishments such as an award, publication, or grant, please let us know at amstd@psu.edu, so we can publicize it. We’re proud of you and want to share the (Lion) pride!

Student Assistance and Financial Aid

The Financial Aid office in the Swatara Building will be glad to advise you about opportunities suited to your particular needs. harrisburg.psu.edu/financial-aid
If you're a military veteran, minority student, international student, or disabled student, the Student Assistance Center is also the place for advice about special programs for you. Deadlines for submission of forms for financial aid usually come early in the spring semester. You will typically need to submit a Needs Analysis Form (Feb. 15) fafsa.ed.gov/ and Scholarship Application (March 15) harrisburg.psu.edu/financial-aid/scholarships.

Remember that work study programs, if you qualify, enable you to pick up money and experience working within an American Studies educational context. The Center and the School of Humanities have positions slated for work-study. Faculty members occasionally also have grant projects with money written in for student assistance. Let faculty members know if you are interested in working on projects.

Student Services

Penn State Harrisburg offers a variety of services to help make your time on campus fulfilling. See harrisburg.psu.edu/student-affairs for a full list of services, including residence life, disability services, student health services, international student support, adult learners, and career services. Student Affairs also runs workshops and seminars to help students reduce stress and improve their effectiveness. If it's a writing problem you want to work on, the Russell E. Horn, Sr., Learning Center in W-117 Olmsted Building administers a writing lab and tutoring services. See harrisburg.psu.edu/learning-center.

PSUAlert

PSUAlert is Penn State's emergency notification system for students, faculty and staff and we strongly recommend that you sign up for the service. The system will be used to alert members of Penn State's campus communities of emergencies, campus closings and other urgent information. Using the portal at psualert.psu.edu/psualert students, faculty and staff can choose to receive PSUAlert messages by text message, voice message and e-mail. The system will never be used to send advertising or spam messages.

Graduation and Commencement

You need to maintain above a 2.0 GPA to graduate and declare your intention to graduate.

registrar.psu.edu/graduation/intent.cfm

Fill out the form for graduation carefully, since the wording on your diploma will be taken from the information you provide there. Graduation ceremonies occur after the fall and spring semesters, held in December and May respectively. If you participate, make sure to order your cap and gown from the bookstore before the deadline, which usually is a month or more before graduation. The ceremony is held at the Giant Center in Hershey. Ample seating and parking are available. The campus has an official commencement web site at harrisburg.psu.edu/commencement/. Your name is called for all to hear and the Dean, School Director, and Chair congratulate you. An official photographer takes your photograph with diploma in hand and faculty, staff, and students mingle afterward in front of the Giant Center by the School of Humanities banner. If you are graduating during the summer, you can request to participate in the December commencement.

After Graduation

Enjoy your time with us, and let us know what we can do to make your program more enriching. Remember, too, that you are part of our family even after you finish the program, and we hope to involve you in our events and services. As alumni, you can still connect to Penn State through the Alumni Association, our listserv, and campus activities. See alumni.psu.edu/ and harrisburg.psu.edu/alumni-relations/. We also have a Capital Area Chapter of the Alumni Association at psucapitalarea.org/.

We also want to track our graduates and hear from you as well as send you information from time to time about what we are doing. So please send us any notices of changes in your address, career, or name. Or just let us know what you're publishing, exhibiting, and generally doing. We like to tell others about it through our community outlets. We may even call on your help to expand our program through our development, recruitment, and outreach efforts.

We look forward to exploring America with you and welcoming you into our American Studies community before and after graduation.

Frequently Asked Questions

This Undergraduate Handbook is intended to serve as a handy reference for American Studies majors and minors. For your convenience, we have arranged it in a Q&A format, answering some frequently asked questions. You will find information about entry into the major and minor, degree requirements, internships, job possibilities, resources at Penn State Harrisburg and in the surrounding area, and a host of other relevant issues. Of course, if you have additional questions, we're happy to answer them in person, by email, and phone. The American Studies main office is in the School of Humanities, Suite W-356 Olmsted Building. You can call the staff assistants at (717) 948-6189 or 717-948-6201 (fax is 717-948-6724). The chair's direct number is 717-948-6039. Our email address is amstd@psu.edu or CKL4@psu.edu (if you'd like to contact staff assistant Cindy Leach). We're glad you're interested in American Studies at Penn State Harrisburg.

Now here are few frequently asked questions...

Q: What is American Studies?

A: American Studies is a field of inquiry that explores the patterns of life and thought of the American peoples, past and present. It is a field with its own theories, methods, and applications. Originally based on the combination of history and literature, it has increasingly incorporated society and culture into its purview. It has been recognized as a degree field since the 1930s and has grown since then to be a major at over 300 colleges and universities world-wide. American Studies continues to evolve, and is now a popular and valued scholarly field at many colleges and universities.

Q: Can you tell me specifically about the program at Penn State Harrisburg?

A: We cover America broadly, with courses that include history and literature, art and anthropology, race and ethnicity, and social sciences and humanities. The coverage includes strengths in material culture, museum studies and public heritage, folk and popular culture studies, ethnic and gender studies, and cultural history. The program has pragmatic applications in its curriculum (e.g., application of classroom studies to interpretive programs in museums, historical societies, and educational institutions) in addition to coursework on concepts and ideas of the American experience. Other Penn State campuses offer American Studies courses and undergraduate degrees, including Brandywine and Abington, but we boast the largest enrollment and number of courses offered. Penn State Harrisburg is the only campus with a comprehensive American Studies program with graduate as well as undergraduate offerings. In Central Pennsylvania, we are the only public university offering the American Studies degree; the degree is offered at the private institutions of Dickinson College, Lehigh University, and Franklin and Marshall College.

Q: Drilling deeper, what themes and topics do specific courses offer?

A: The courses for this major are designed to give you sustained exposure to American culture, society, and history.

Let's start with the lower-division offerings – the **100-level courses**. All of these courses fulfill Penn State's General Education requirements, so you will find a variety of students enrolled – not just American Studies majors and minors. Though we present a variety of courses, the most frequently offered ones are as follows:

- Introduction to American Studies (100)
- American Masculinities (103)
- Women in the American Experience (104)
- Popular Culture and Folklife (105)
- The Mass Media and Society (106)
- Alternative Voices in American Literature (135)
- Religion in American Life and Thought (140Y)
- Introduction to Asian American Studies (160)
- Introduction to American Folklore (196)

At the **200 and 300 level**, we tend to offer fewer courses (majors tend to need more courses at the 400 level). However, you will see four courses on the schedule fairly regularly: AM ST 307: American Art, AM ST 308: American Architecture, AM ST 325: Political Culture, AM ST 363: American Music.

400-level courses follow a logical pattern. Historical-based courses are numbered from 400 to 429; Societal-based courses run from 430-449; Cultural-based courses are numbered from 450 to 479; and

Public Heritage and Museum Studies courses run from 480-490. **Remember that at least 12 credits in the major need to be taken at the 400-level.**

400 Early America to 1765
401 Revolution and Early Republic, 1765-1815
402 Antebellum and Civil War Era, 1815-1876
404 Industrial America, 1876-1940
405 Cold War America
406 Contemporary America
412 American Eras
421 American Philosophy
422 Religion and American Culture
435 Americans at Work
439 American Regional Cultures
441 History of Sport in American Society
447 Recent American History
448 Ethnography of the United States
451 Topics in American Film
472 Topics in American Literature
475 Black American Writers
476 American Women Writers
479 American Expressive Forms
480 Museum Studies
481 Historic Preservation
482 Public Heritage
491W American Themes and Eras

For a full course list, visit the University Bulletin online and select American Studies:
bulletins.psu.edu/undergrad/courses/

Q: What degree will I receive if I major in American Studies?

You will receive a **Bachelor of Arts degree (B.A.)**, which is among the most common and widely recognized degrees in the world. Regardless of where you go, everyone will understand and respect this degree. In a most basic sense, the B.A. degree will signal to them that you completed the academic requirements of college in good standing. However, a higher purpose animates the B.A. degree. As you shall see, the degree requirements ask you not only to know a single field (American Studies) but also to venture outside your degree so that you will learn about the knowledge, methods, and approaches of other fields. It is for this reason that the B.A. requirements ask that you study a foreign language, learn about a culture that is new to you (the “Other Cultures” requirement), and take classes in fields other than American Studies (the “Knowledge Domain” requirement). All of these requirements flow out of the philosophy behind the degree: we want you to have a breadth as well as depth of knowledge and to gain skills so you are adaptable in a changing world.

Q: If I choose to pursue a B.A. in American Studies, what will my pathway to graduation look like?

Let’s break down your college career section by section, starting with **General Education**. Like all Penn State students, you will begin by fulfilling your General Education requirements. Though you enjoy tremendous latitude to take courses that interest you in the various fields, be aware of couple of things. First, as a part of your GWS requirement, we recommend you take ENGL 202B specifically because it will prepare you for writing in the Humanities (the other versions of ENGL 202 target students in science,

business, social sciences, etc...). Second, the B.A. degree demands that you take one course with a Laboratory Component as a part of your GN requirement. Your advisor can help you locate the courses that fulfill this requirement.

Let's shift to the **requirements of your major** in American Studies, which will account for 33 credits total. Looking first at prescribed courses, you must take 3 credits of AM ST 100 and six credits of AM ST 491W for a total of 9 credits ($3+6=9$). Since you must take 491W two times, we will make sure that the topics covered vary from semester to semester. In addition to those 9 credits, you will take 24 credits of supporting courses ($9+24=33$). Here you flexibility. Depending on your interests, you choose three of the four subject areas from the following list:

1. American literature
2. American history
3. American art, philosophy, and religion (humanities)
4. American social sciences

For two of the subject areas, you must take 9 credits, and for the third subject area, you take only six ($9+9+6=24$). Your adviser will work with you to make sure that every course you take ends up in the right slot on your audit.

Your B.A. degree also requires that you become proficient in a **foreign language**. Penn State Harrisburg offers on-campus courses in Spanish, Chinese, and French. German 1, 2, and 3 are available through online instruction. What level should you begin with? That depends on your high school preparation. As a rule, Penn State considers two years of high school coursework as equivalent to one level at college. For example, if you took 4 years of high school Chinese, then you would start at Penn State in Chinese 3 and would have only to complete this single course to fulfill the B.A. language requirement. If you took 2 years of Spanish in high school, you would start in Spanish 2 at Penn State and would fulfill the requirement only after completing Spanish 3.

Note: Students who have not studied the chosen language for several years may wish to start at a lower level even if they qualify, based on the rule stated above, for a more advanced level. Our top priority is your comfort level; if you take language classes over your head, you are less likely to enjoy and succeed in these classes.

Recall that any B.A. Degree Program intends to produce a well-rounded individual. For this reason, you are required to take 9 credits of **Knowledge Domain** courses and 3 credits of **Other Cultures**. Concerning Knowledge Domain, you can freely choose from the following areas: Arts, Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Quantification. Almost any academic course will count here, with one exception: you must not take American Studies here. Though this requirement may seem counterintuitive, remember the overarching philosophy behind the B.A. Degree – the creation of well-rounded problem solvers. As for Other Cultures, some courses qualify while others do not. To find courses you can take, select Other Cultures as your search sorter in the Schedule of Courses. When you do this, only those courses that satisfy this requirement will appear. Your advisor can help you with this task.

Q: How many total credits must I complete before I can graduate from Penn State with my B.A. in American Studies?

A: The magic number is **123 credits**. After you complete your General Education and B.A. Requirements, any leftover credits are considered **electives**.

Q: After doing quick calculations, I see that I will probably have quite a few leftover credits. Is there any way I can use these credits to enhance my career options or chances for graduate school?

A: There are several ways you can profitably use these credits. First, you can work out an **internship** in American Studies. Along with giving you hands-on experience, internships can expose you to employers in the region. Second, you can pursue a **minor degree** in a field that complements your major. If a student wants to work in tourism, for example, she might couple her American Studies major with a minor in Business. If a student plans to work in Government, he might choose Political Science. Given today's technology, many students benefit from a minor in Computer Science or Information Systems Technology (For a list of minors offered at our campus, please consult harrisburg.psu.edu/Programs/Undergraduate/Minors.php). Third, students also apply to the Honors Program.

Q: Can Undergraduates take Graduate courses? What about going on to the M.A.?

A: Any senior with a 3.50 grade-point average may be admitted to 500 or 800-level courses with the consent of the instructor; other seniors with a B average or better may be admitted to graduate courses with the consent of the instructor, the student's academic adviser, and the dean of the Graduate School. For a petition form, visit [harrisburg.psu.edu/policy/academic-policies-graduate-programs#Undergraduates in 500- or 800-Level Courses](http://harrisburg.psu.edu/policy/academic-policies-graduate-programs#Undergraduates_in_500- or_800-Level_Courses). It is possible to continue on to the M.A. in American Studies either through the IUG program or completing your BA and then applying to the M.A. program. We have Graduate Information Nights you can attend or see Dr. Bronner for more details.

Q: Can I have a double major?

A: At Penn State seeking two majors simultaneously is called concurrent degree study. It is also possible to have sequential majors, finishing one after the other. For details on the procedures for these categories, see handbook.psu.edu/content/concurrent-majors-program. Seeking a concurrent major frequently involves taking more credits than with one. Examples of concurrent majors that several students have pursued are in public policy, sociology, and political science.

Q: Does the American Studies Program cooperate with the Honors Program?

A: Absolutely. You can be an American Studies major or minor and participate in the Honors Program. And, in fact, Dr. Haddad, a professor in the American Studies Program, is a former director of the Honors Program if you want to ask him questions about it. The Honors Program at Penn State Harrisburg is designed to meet the intellectual needs of students who want a little more out of college than is provided by the standard curriculum. The major components of the Program include: interdisciplinary seminars, community service, international travel, supervised undergraduate research, access to an Honors Lounge (library), invitations to enjoy guest speakers, and cultural outings. In short, by entering the Honors Program, you will be joining a community of scholars. Upon completing the requirements of the Program, you will graduate "with Honors" from Penn State Harrisburg, a special distinction that will appear on your transcript and stand out on your résumé as you enter the job market or apply to graduate schools. For more information, see:

php.scripts.psu.edu/dept/iit/hbg/Programs/Undergraduate/Honors.php

Q: That's a lot to remember. Will anyone help me keep it all straight?

A: Yes. First of all, when you begin, you are assigned an adviser. This professor knows and understands the curriculum, and will get to know you as a person. Your adviser will help you plan your semesters and choose your courses to help you progress with success towards graduation. Second, you and your adviser can keep track of your degree progress by using Penn State's on-line Academic Advising and Information System. You will see up-to-date information that tells you what courses you have taken and what

requirements you still need to meet. Finally, the American Studies Program at Penn State Harrisburg has a chair, whose job is to assist all students. The School of Humanities provides administrative staff support for American Studies faculty and students. The main contact person for undergraduates is Cindy Leach (717-948-6189, CKL4@psu.edu) who is primarily responsible for undergraduate students. Hannah Murray, also in W356 (717-948-6201, hbm5103@psu.edu) works primarily with graduate students. Taneile Fasnacht, part-time assistant, in W351 is the staff person to whom assistants hand their time sheets. Also in that office is Rachel Dean, the administrative assistant for the School Director; she handles appointments and budget matters related to the School Director. Remember that the staff members do not provide advising. They will help you cut through the red tape of a bureaucracy and navigate through the program, but seek out your adviser for academic questions.

Q: I'm interested in the Minor. What does this option look like?

A: A Minor in American Studies shows that you possess a basic knowledge of American cultural history and that you own valuable critical thinking and writing skills. Thus, some students from other majors often see a Minor in American Studies as complementary – as a convenient and fun way to enhance their job prospects or grad school applications. Others pursue it simply to satisfy their love of history, literature, and culture. To join the Minor, you need only to select it on LionPath. At this point, you will be assigned an adviser who can help you choose courses.

The Minor requires you to take 18 credits in American Studies. At least 6 credits must be at the 400 level, and a grade of C or better is required for all courses in the minor. Required courses are AM ST 100 and 491W. For the remaining 12 credits, you can choose from any American Studies offerings (AM ST).

Q: What are the professors like?

A: Our professors are scholar-teachers dedicated to advancing American Studies through classroom instruction, professional participation, academic research, and community outreach. Giving students personal attention is important in this program, and you will find your professors readily accessible, eager to talk things over inside and outside the classroom. Full-time faculty members carry titles in American Studies and a related field (History, Social Science, Folklore, Popular Culture, and Heritage Studies). Part-time professors have professional expertise in a given field. Other members of the School of Humanities also regularly teach courses within the American Studies Program. We also draw on the expertise of faculty in the schools of Behavioral Science and Education and Public Affairs. All of this means that you have many dedicated professionals to guide and instruct you as you make your way through the program to graduation. A listing of faculty members and descriptions of their expertise can be found in this handbook.

Q: What are the students like? Do American Studies students at Penn State Harrisburg have a sense of community outside of the classroom? How do they stay in touch with each other, and with the program?

A: The undergraduate cohort number currently about 25 students. They vary in their backgrounds and ages, although most students are between 18 and 25 years old and come from Pennsylvania. Most students attend full-time but we have a number of part-time students. To accommodate this range of students, we include evening courses, Saturday courses, and summer courses in our scheduling. Our program is lively inside and outside the classroom. Students and professors have plenty of chances to further their American Studies interests together. We are headquarters for the **Eastern American Studies Association**, which is a chapter of the national organization, the American Studies Association (ASA), and its **Undergraduate American Studies Honor Society (Epsilon Alpha Kappa)**. Each year, EASA hosts a scholarly conference, and there are several ways for students to get involved. In 2016, the conference will be at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. There is also an electronic American Studies newsletter, which keeps you abreast of developments in the program, region, and field. In addition, the

program uses ANGEL, the Penn State Course Management System, to keep students apprised of upcoming events. We also have a busy Penn State Harrisburg American Studies website, Facebook page, and listserv, which includes job opening updates. There are regular American Studies meetings, as well as a well-attended lecture series featuring outstanding experts who meet and share with our students and faculty. Importantly, there is a Penn State Harrisburg American Studies student group, which encourages majors to meet, communicate with, and learn from each other. In short, there's always something going on!

Q: Is the American Studies Honors Society the same as Penn State Harrisburg's Honors Program? No, they are separate. However, not coincidentally, several American Studies majors are members of both. To apply to the American Studies Honor Society (*Epsilon Alpha Kappa*), you need to have a GPA in your major at or above 3.4 along with an overall GPA no lower than 3.0. Please contact Dr. Buccitelli at abb20@psu.edu if you are interested.

Q: What can I do with an American Studies degree after I graduate?

A: Your American Studies degree provides you the opportunity to apply your knowledge to a variety of professions in many career settings. Program graduates primarily find careers in museums, government, law, communications, and education. Many business organizations require an American Studies background when filling positions in public relations, art management, and tourism. Communications fields are another area of opportunity, as are public history institutions. Many graduates continue their education in areas such as American Studies, Communications, History, Humanities, English, Law, and Public Administration.

Q: I'm planning to look for work after I graduate. What kind of employers will appreciate my degree? What are some job titles that American Studies majors have earned?

A: Because American Studies is a flexible major that fosters skills in critical thought and communication, it qualifies you for many kinds of twenty-first century positions, sending potential employers the signal that you are a flexible thinker who can process ideas and communicate information effectively and efficiently. American Studies majors use their degrees to pursue opportunities in fields as diverse as Archives, Art Management, Business, Cultural Organizations, Communications, Education, Entertainment, Government, Public Service, Tourism, and Science. But it is fair to say with our location and curriculum, most students aim to land positions in public heritage fields (museums, historical societies, archives, communications, government) or have plans to advance to graduate school with an eye toward teaching careers.

Any listing of job titles is bound to be incomplete, but some examples include: Account Executive, Archaeologist, Artist, Business Affairs Director, Case Manager, Collections Manager, Corrections Officer, Critic, Curator, Development Director, Editor, Educational Programs Director, Exhibit Director, Federal Employee, Historian, Journalist, Marketing Expert, Member-ship Coordinator, Public Relations Coordinator, Public Servant, Producer, Professor, Researcher, Retail Specialist, Salesperson, Script Writer, Teacher, Technical Writer, Training Coordinator, Visitor Services Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, Writer, and Youth Program Manager.

Q: What will the job market look like for people with my qualifications after I graduate?

A: According to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for graduates with an American Studies background is rising and is expected to continue increasing at an average pace. Competition for jobs as archivists, curators, and museum technicians, as well as for other service positions within these areas is expected to remain keen. Employment in related career areas such as public relations, sales, and

marketing will increase at an even higher rate. Students with communication (writing and speaking), computer (website and productivity software), and documentary skills (photography, video) will be at an advantage in the job market, and courses are available to prepare students in these skills.

Q: Okay, I'm interested. Can I enter as a freshman?

A: Yes. You will be in the Division of Undergraduate Studies, and can immediately start fulfilling requirements leading to your degree. After completing the lower-division undergraduate requirements, you can then move into the American Studies Program. See the suggested schedule in this handbook to get an idea of what your undergraduate courses might look like. It covers all four years.

Q: I want to transfer from another college. What are the requirements to enter the major?

A: Entry to the American Studies major requires a 2.00 or higher cumulative grade-point average (4.0 scale). Increasing numbers of 001-200 level courses are offered for students who need lower-division classes.

Q: I'm at another Penn State campus. What about Change of Assignment Recommendations?

A: Students should generally have completed most of their general education requirements. You should request such a change-of-assignment during your fourth semester in order to guarantee entrance to the major by the next semester of enrollment.

Q: I might be interested in doing research. Are there good research opportunities in the Capital Region?

A: Certainly! Research venues range through local, county, state, and even federal levels. The Capital Region boasts many institutions with American Studies holdings that can help you with a research project. In downtown Harrisburg, you will find the State Library, State Archives, and State Museum. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, which oversees the State Museum, also has offices and resources for historic preservation and oral history. The Capitol is also a resource for you. Staffs for agencies, lobbies, legislators, and political parties can provide valuable information. Central Pennsylvania also has many historical societies with collections for you to explore. Of course, the Gettysburg Battlefield Site, administered by the National Park Service, is a wonderful resource, as is the National Civil War Museum, in Harrisburg. So are the HersheyStory, and the Heritage Center of Lancaster County. Don't forget that Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C. are also accessible to our scholars.

Q: What about Penn State Harrisburg's Library?

A: The library here at Penn State Harrisburg has much to offer students, including a trained staff of professionals eager to help. As a student here, you have access to the full range of library services and holdings that the Penn State University system offers, as well as to the holdings of our partner Big Ten institutions.

Check the library website for more information: libraries.psu.edu

Q: Does the Program offer on-line courses?

A: Yes. Currently, sections of AM ST 100, AM ST 105, AM ST 196, and AM ST 491W are offered online.

Check the schedule of courses for availability. The online courses are identified as "Web" in the Location field of the course information.

Q: Does the American Studies Program utilize modern technology?

A: Very much so. With enhanced classrooms, audio-visual services, labs, email, and internet access, the

whole Penn State Harrisburg campus is devoted to integrating computer and information technologies for your benefit. IIT services and computing facilities are abundant. You can take computer training classes, too. Learn more about computer services and IIT information at harrisburg.psu.edu/its

Q: I am a parent. Are there any child-care facilities on campus?

A: Hildebrandt Learning Centers, LLC., an independently owned and operated child care facility, offers child care on campus for Penn State Harrisburg faculty, students, and staff. Programs are available for children from six to twelve years of age. Center hours are from 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Full-time, part-time, and drop in care is available. For rates and information, call (717) 948-6128. Student affairs also sponsors a parent support group.

Q: What about Disability Services?

A: Penn State Harrisburg is highly committed to full access of its programs and services for all qualified individuals. Students with disabilities should contact the Disabilities Services Coordinator (DSC) in the Student Assistance Center, 717-948-6205 or aub15@psu.edu. See harrisburg.psu.edu/disability-services. Reasonable accommodations are provided, based on documented need. Information on required documentation can be obtained from the DSC or the University Park Website – Accessible on-campus housing is available, reserved parking spaces are clearly marked and adjacent to all on-campus buildings, and all on-campus buildings are fully accessible.

Q: What about Health Services?

A: Health Services are available to all students. The office is located in room 220 in the Capital Union Building and staffed by a registered nurse. A physician is available for consultation with students during regularly scheduled clinic hours. There is no charge to see the RN or physician.

Q: I am an international student. Are there any facilities to help me?

A: International Students benefit from the support of the International Students Office, which helps in matters relating to immigration, social, and cultural issues. See harrisburg.psu.edu/international-student-support-services. Referrals are made to professionals in areas of financial and legal matters, and in other areas of interest to international students.

Q: Who can a non-traditional student (adult learner) contact for information about support and services?

A: Non-traditional students, aka as “adult learners,” are defined as: 24 years of age or older and/or entering school either for the first time or returning after a period of time away from school. Further information is available at the Student Affairs Office.

Q: I'd like to know more about American Studies at Penn State Harrisburg. What should I do?

A: Contact the Program Chair Dr. John Haddad at (717) 948-6196 or jrh36@psu.edu. Our office is located in Suite W-356 of the Olmsted Building on the campus of Penn State Harrisburg. Our address is: American Studies, School of Humanities, Penn State Harrisburg, W-356 Olmsted Building, 777 W. Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057-4898. Our telephone number is (717) 948-6201. You can email us at amstd@psu.edu. Don't forget to visit our website, which has AM ST course descriptions, syllabi, links, and resources at harrisburg.psu.edu/hum/american-studies. Another useful site is schedule.psu.edu, which has schedule of classes where you can select AM ST from a drop down menu to see all the American Studies courses offered in a given semester. Finally, we hope that this handbook serves as a helpful introduction to our program. We are always happy to help you learn more about the American Studies Program at Penn State Harrisburg, and to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact us, and let us tell you more about the program.



Commencement at the Giant Center, Hershey, Pennsylvania. Proceedings on stage are televised on the central screens. Families and faculty members meet outside the arena after commencement.



The Commencement Marshal announces the names of graduates by major and they walk across stage from right to left. They are congratulated by the chancellor, deans, school director, and program chair. The graduate then has his or her photo taken with the diploma.

Useful Web Sites

harrisburg.psu.edu/humanities/American-studies (Penn State Harrisburg American Studies Program website)

groups.yahoo.com/group/Amstd-hbg/join
(Site to subscribe to listserv)

harrisburg.psu.edu/
(Penn State Harrisburg home page)

schedule.psu.edu/
(Schedule of Courses)

harrisburg.psu.edu/hbg/research/paclture.html
(Center for Pennsylvania Culture Studies)

psu.edu/ph
(Penn State Directory)

lias.psu.edu
(Penn State's Library Catalogue)

umdl.umich.edu/moa
Making of America Website (on-line texts)

xroads.virginia.edu
American Studies Hypertext Collection from U of Virginia

canvas.psu.edu
CANVAS Course Management Site

theasa.net
American Studies Association site

gradsch.psu.edu
Graduate School at Penn State

