# AMST - American Studies

**AMST418 Cultural Themes in America (3 Credits)**
Examination of structure and development of American culture through themes such as "growing up American," "culture and mental disorders," "race," "ethnicity," "regionalism," "landscape," and "humor."  
**Repeatable to:** 6 credits if content differs.

**AMST428 American Cultural Eras (3 Credits)**
Investigation of a decade, period, or generation as a case study in significant social change within an American context. Case studies include "Antebellum America, 1840-1860" and "American culture in the Great Depression."  
**Repeatable to:** 6 credits if content differs.

**AMST429 Perspectives on Popular Culture (3 Credits)**
Topics in popular culture studies, including the examination of particular genres, themes, and issues.  
**Repeatable to:** 6 credits if content differs.

**AMST450 Seminar in American Studies (3 Credits)**
Developments in theories and methods of American Studies scholarship, with emphasis upon interaction between the humanities and the social sciences in the process of cultural analysis and evaluation.  
**Prerequisite:** AMST201 and AMST340; and 1 course in AMST.  
**Restriction:** Senior standing; and must be in American Studies program.

**AMST498 Special Topics in American Studies (3 Credits)**
Topics of special interest.  
**Repeatable to:** 9 credits if content differs.

**AMST499 Independent Studies (1-3 Credits)**
Provides the student with the opportunity to pursue independent, interdisciplinary research and reading in specific areas of American culture studies.  
**Restriction:** Permission of ARHU-American Studies department; and must be in American Studies program.  
**Repeatable to:** 6 credits if content differs.

**AMST601 Introductory Theories and History in American Studies (3 Credits)**
Explores the formative literature, theories, research approaches, and history of American Studies.  
**Restriction:** Must not be a Graduate Advanced Special Student.

**AMST603 Current Approaches to American Studies (3 Credits)**
Builds on AMST601 and explores contemporary literature, theory, and intellectual issues in American Studies.  
**Restriction:** Must be in one of the following programs (American Studies (Master’s); American Studies (Doctoral)) . Or permission of ARHU-American Studies department; and permission of instructor.

**AMST628 Seminar in American Studies (3 Credits)**
**AMST629 Seminar in American Studies (3 Credits)**

**AMST638 Orientation Seminar: Material Aspects of American Civilization (3 Credits)**
Class meets at the Smithsonian.

**AMST639 Reading Course in Selected Aspects of American Civilization (3 Credits)**
Class meets at the Smithsonian.

**AMST650 Material Culture Studies Theory (3 Credits)**
Readings and analysis of canonical and current scholarly approaches to the study of material culture. Covers a wide range of material culture genres and subfields, and focuses on artifacts and the built environment.

**AMST655 Introduction to Museum Scholarship (3 Credits)**
Provides students a basic understanding of museums as cultural and intellectual institutions. Topics include the historical development of museums, museums as resources for scholarly study, and the museum exhibition as medium for presentation of scholarship.Cross-listed with HIST610, ANTH655.  
**Credit Only Granted for:** AMST655, ANTH655, or HIST610.

**AMST698 Directed Readings in American Studies (3 Credits)**
This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to pursue independent, interdisciplinary research and reading in specific aspects of American culture under the supervision of a faculty member.  
**Repeatable to:** 6 credits if content differs.

**AMST798 Non-Thesis Research (1-3 Credits)**
**AMST799 Master’s Thesis Research (1-6 Credits)**

**AMST851 Interpretation of Cultural Landscapes (3 Credits)**
A research seminar that provides students an opportunity to survey the principal approaches to studying a cultural landscape, learn how to apply and adapt a field research method, and produce a primary research report on a cultural landscape of their choice.

**AMST856 Museum Research Seminar (3 Credits)**
A research seminar focusing on the practice and presentation of cultural and historical scholarship in museums and historical sites. Students will complete an original research project on the challenges and opportunities of public exhibition and interpretation of cultural and historical research.  
**Prerequisite:** AMST655, ANTH655, or HIST610. Cross-listed with ANTH856, HIST810.  
**Credit Only Granted for:** AMST856, ANTH856, or HIST810.

**AMST857 Museum Scholarship Practicum (3-6 Credits)**
Students devise and carry out a research program using the collections at the Smithsonian Institution or some other cooperating museum, working under joint supervision of a museum professional and a university faculty member.  
**Prerequisite:** AMST856, ANTH856, or HIST810.  
**Restriction:** Permission of Museum Scholarship Program required. Cross-listed with ANTH857, HIST811.  
**Credit Only Granted for:** AMST857, ANTH857, or HIST811.

**AMST878 American Studies Pedagogy Mentoring (1-3 Credits)**
This course provides graduate teaching assistants with a structured approach to pedagogical content, techniques, and collaborative practices that they learn and then can use throughout their careers. It also commits a core faculty member to teaching pedagogy and makes it possible for the course to become a formal part of one’s load.  
**Restriction:** Must be an AMST graduate assistant.  
**Repeatable to:** 12 credits.

**AMST898 Pre-Candidacy Research (1-8 Credits)**
**AMST899 Doctoral Dissertation Research (1-8 Credits)**