The Program in American Studies offers an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the society and cultures of the United States. American Studies majors critically examine the changing narratives and practices of American life in a curriculum that emphasizes both historical breadth and theoretical depth. Majors work closely with American Studies faculty, choosing the right combination of courses that will prepare them to write a uniquely interdisciplinary senior thesis.

Recent American Studies Senior Theses:

- Challenging Racial Adversity: Arthur Mitchell and the Dance Theater of Harlem
- High Heel Chronicles: A Journey through American History in Women’s Elevated Footwear, 1928-1939
- The Polaroid and the Process of Consumption in Post–WWII America
- Imagining the Dance of America, Regenerating ‘the Race’: The Eugenic Fantasy of Ted Shawn
- Kosher Nostra: The Impact of Jewish Prohibition Gangsters

Program in American Studies
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jkassano@barnard.edu
413 Barnard Hall
www.barnard.edu/americanstudies

“The United States themselves are essentially the greatest poem.”
- Walt Whitman
American Studies Faculty
Randall Balmer, Religion
Elizabeth Bernstein, Women’s Studies
Mark Carnes, History
Flora Davidson, Political Science
Alan Dye, Economics
Elizabeth Esch, History
Severin Fowles, Anthropology
Lynn Garafola, Dance
Katie Glasner, Dance
Lisa Gordis, English
Elizabeth Hutchinson, Art History
Janet Jakobsen, Women’s Studies
Jennie Kassanoff, English
Kathleen Knight, Political Science
Peter Levin, Sociology
Alfred MacAdam, Spanish
Robert McCaughey, History
Monica Miller, English
Lorraine Minnite, Political Science
Richard Pious, Political Science
Jonathan Rieder, Sociology
Rosalind Rosenberg, History
William Sharpe, English
Herb Sloan, History
David Smiley, Architecture
David Weiman, Economics
Margaret Vandenberg, English

“America never was America to me
And yet I swear this oath –
America will be!”
- Langston Hughes

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

1. Two semesters of the American History survey, HIST BC 1401 and 1402.
2. Two semesters of the American literature survey, either ENG BC 3179 or 3180 and either ENG BC 3181 or 3183
3. One course in any discipline that focuses on American culture before 1917.
5. A four-course concentration, determined in consultation with your advisor, and organized around a theme and a historical period.
6. Two semesters of senior thesis

YOUR CONCENTRATION

THemes
- Gender and Sexuality
- Race
- Class
- Media and Popular Culture
- Disability
- Political Theory and Culture
- Labor, Production, and Consumption
- Transnational America
- Natural and Built Environment
- Family and Kinship
- Immigration, Migration, and Ethnicity
- Spirituality and Belief

Historical Periods
- Aboriginal and Columbian period
- Colonial, Revolutionary, Early Republic
- Antebellum America
- Civil War and Reconstruction
- 1900-1945
- 1945-present
- Time period proposed by petition to the Chair.