School of General Studies

The School of General Studies provides an interdisciplinary environment that allows students to understand and integrate the liberal arts and sciences. The school administers interdisciplinary degree programs that afford students the opportunity to design their degree plans on an individualized basis. To assist the student in pursuing a course of study leading to successful completion of an undergraduate degree, the school provides a unique support structure. Included in this structure is the school's Internship Program that arranges professional work experience in diverse career settings. The educational environment of General Studies is especially congenial to students eager to pursue unconventional or innovative combinations of course work.

Programs

The School of General Studies administers the programs for the Bachelor of Arts in American Studies, the Bachelor of Arts in Gender Studies, the Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, and the Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies. The program in American Studies is designed for students who wish to learn more about United States institutions, arts, and society, both in the past and present. The Bachelor of Arts in Gender Studies is designed to understand, explain, and predict the ways that gender, as a set of ideas, fundamentally shapes our history and culture. The Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies Programs emphasize a broad learning experience and a wider perspective than that provided by traditional undergraduate majors. All programs are designed for students who wish to choose among conventional disciplines, both to explore a variety of topics and to integrate courses focusing on a particular area of interest. They are also appropriate for those students who seek a thorough grounding in the traditional arts and sciences from an interdisciplinary perspective. For students in other schools who wish to broaden their education by including a School of General Studies program, the double degree is recommended. This option calls for a minimum of 30 semester credit hours at the upper division beyond those necessary for the major with the larger credit hour requirement. In addition, the student must satisfy all requirements for both majors. The School of General Studies does not permit a double major in either American Studies or Interdisciplinary Studies.

Internship Program

All undergraduates in the School of General Studies are encouraged to take an internship with an organization in the community. Internships provide students with the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills that they have mastered in their academic work. Students applying for internships must be in their senior year and in good academic standing, have completed the appropriate course work, and receive approval of the Internship Director. Students normally enroll for 3 to 6 semester hours. Students interested in the program should see the Internship Director of the School of General Studies or call 972/883-2354.

Minors

Minors in the School of General Studies are available in the Bachelor of Arts in American Studies and the Bachelor of Arts in Gender Studies. Students in the Interdisciplinary Studies degree programs cannot have a minor, nor is there a minor offered in Interdisciplinary Studies. The requirements for each minor are listed below the degree requirements.

American Studies (B.A.)

The program in American Studies has as its focus the institutions, arts, structure, and social processes of the United States. It emphasizes interdisciplinary work which integrates disciplinary perspectives. Students choose two broad areas within which to work.
Each student designs his or her own program within specific guidelines and in consultation with a faculty advisor. The courses a student takes as part of the American Studies program may be given in any school within the university but will include American Studies courses and appropriate Interdisciplinary Studies courses. A list of courses which apply to the American Studies degree may be obtained from the program secretary in the dean’s office in the School of General Studies. Double majors including American Studies are not available.

**Bachelor of Arts in American Studies Degree Requirements (120 hours)**

I. **Core Curriculum Requirements**: 42 hours

- A. Communication (6 hours)
  - 3 hours Communication (RHET 1302)
  - 3 hours Communication Elective

- B. Social and Behavioral Sciences (15 hours)
  - 6 hours Government (GOVT 2301 and 2302)
  - 6 hours History (HST 1301 and 2301)
  - 3 hours Social and Behavior Sciences Elective

- C. Humanities and Fine Arts (6 hours)
  - 3 hours Fine Arts (AP 1301)
  - 3 hours Humanities (A&H 1301)

- D. Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning (6 hours)
  - 3 hours College Algebra (MATH 1300 or 1314)
  - 3 hours Statistics (STAT 1342)

- E. Science (9 hours including at least one course with a substantial laboratory component)

1 Curriculum Requirements can be fulfilled by other approved courses from accredited institutions of higher education. The courses listed in parenthesis are recommended as the most efficient way to satisfy both Core Curriculum and Major Requirements at U.T. Dallas.

II. **Major Requirements**: 48 hours

- Major Core Courses (12 hours)
  - AMS 3302 American Cultures
  - BIS 3320 The Nature of Intellectual Inquiry
  - Two of the following courses:
    - HST 3368 Slavery and Race Relations in the U.S.
    - HST 3369 United States Foreign Relations
    - GOVT 3325 American Public Policy
    - GOVT 3327 United States Foreign Policy

- Major Related Courses (36 hours)
  - In addition to the core requirements, students will take 18 semester credit hours of course work in each of two of the following disciplinary options, for a total of 36 hours:
    - The American Body Politic
    - Americans Past and Present
    - America and the World Community
    - American Business and Technology
    - American Literature and the Arts
    - Popular Culture

2 A required Major course that also fulfills a Core Curriculum requirement. An additional IS course will be taken if BIS 3320 is used to satisfy the Core Curriculum Communication Elective requirement.
III. Elective Requirements: 30 hours

Advanced Electives (6 hours)
Free Electives (24 hours)

Students must complete 51 hours of upper-division course work to graduate.

Minor in American Studies

The American Studies minor is 18 semester hours. AMS 3302 and BIS 3320 are required in addition to four other approved American Studies courses chosen from AMS 3300, AMS 3370, AMS 3374, AMS 4378, AMS 4379, AMS 4384 and ISGS 4338. Students pursuing a degree in American Studies may incorporate a minor from another discipline in their degree program.

Specified Course Descriptions

A&H 1301 (HUMA 1301) Exploration of the Humanities (3 semester hours) An introduction to the concept of cultural tradition through the study of selected works of literature, philosophy, music, and visual art. Emphasis on the relations among various forms of cultural expression and developing students' ability to interpret complex artistic works in their historical, cultural, and intellectual contexts. General education core course. (3-0) S

AMS 3300 American Popular Culture (3 semester hours) Examines American culture from the colonial period to the present through some of its most popular cultural forms: fiction, drama, film, advertising, music, fairs and festivals. Considers the economics of cultural production, ways of critically reading popular texts, and how consumers make use of popular culture. Pays particular attention to the ways gender, race, and class influence how popular texts are created and consumed. (3-0) Y

AMS 3302 American Cultures (3 semester hours) Study of contemporary American cultures. Examines institutions, culture regions, and the interaction between mainstream American culture and various subcultures. (3-0) Y

AMS 3370 Organized Crime in America (3 semester hours) An examination of how the vast network of organized crime has become an ineradicable part of the nation's special fabric and how it alters the ways in which legitimate business is done. Emphasis is placed on understanding the phenomenon and its implications for American life. (3-0) Y

AMS 3374 Entrepreneurs in America (3 semester hours) An interdisciplinary introduction to various kinds of entrepreneurial ventures. The basic purpose of the course is to discover and understand the factors that govern the success (or failure) of entrepreneurial ventures and the role of the entrepreneur in a capitalist economy. (3-0) R

AMS 4378 Contemporary Studies of America (3 semester hours) Subject matter will vary from semester to semester with emphasis on America in the modern era. May be repeated for credit (9 hours maximum). (3-0) Y

AMS 4379 Topics in American Studies (3 semester hours) Subject matter will vary from semester to semester. May be repeated for credit (9 hours maximum). (3-0) Y

AMS 4384 North American Archaeology (3 semester hours) An introduction to archaeological theories and evidence of the settlement of North America before European Contact. (3-0) T

AP 1301 (ARTS 1301) Exploration of the Arts (3 semester hours) This course introduces students to the physical and intellectual demands required of the author, the performer, and the visual artist. This introduction includes, but is not limited to, the student's production of a creative project as well as written assessments of art and performance. (3-0) Y

BIS 3320 The Nature of Intellectual Inquiry (3 semester hours) Core course designed to enhance the student's critical thinking and reasoning in order to understand and utilize the methodologies of scholarly pursuits. To be taken during the student's first 12 hours in the Interdisciplinary Studies program. May not be taken on a Credit/No Credit basis. (3-0) S
GOVT 2301 Constitutional Foundations and Political Behavior in the U.S. and Texas (3 semester hours) This course examines the evolution and current state of political behavior and public policy making in the U.S. and Texas. Topics discussed will include the constitutions, federalism, intergovernmental relations, voting, elections, political parties, public opinion, and interest groups. (Fulfills one-half of the legislative requirement of 6 hours of American government.) (3-0) S

GOVT 2302 Political Institutions in the U.S. and Texas (3 semester hours) This course explores the primary institutions of U.S. and Texas government. It examines the bureaucracy as well as the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government at the state and federal level. (Fulfills one-half of the legislative requirement of 6 hours of American government.) (3-0) S

GOVT 3325 American Public Policy (3 semester hours) This course examines the making of public policy in the U.S. political system. Students will examine the various public policy models and case studies related to specific policy areas. All students are required to write a policy related term paper to fulfill the University's writing requirement.(3-0) Y

GOVT 3327 United States Foreign Policy (3 semester hours) Examine the way in which the policy-making process structures the premises, concepts, and objectives of U.S. policy and the U.S. role in international politics. (3-0) R

HST 1301 Themes and Ideas in American History (3 semester hours) An introduction to the methods of historical inquiry through the study of selected main themes in American history. A course designed to offer students an understanding of the historical and cultural context of America in the contemporary world. Fulfills one-half of the Texas legislative requirement for six hours in American history. (3-0) S

HST 2301 Issues in American History (3 semester hours) Readings, commentary, and discussion aimed at varying aspects of history and culture. Fulfills one-half of the Texas legislative requirement for six hours in American history. (3-0) Y

HST 3368 Slavery and Race Relations in the United States (3 semester hours) An analysis of the evolution of slavery and race relations in the U.S. from the colonial period to the present. Fulfills one-half of the Texas legislative requirement for six hours in American history. (3-0) T

HST 3369 United States Foreign Relations (3 semester hours) A survey of American diplomatic history since the 1890s. The course analyzes the United States' relations with Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and Soviet Russia. Fulfills one-half of the Texas legislative requirement for six hours in American history. (3-0) T

MATH 1300 Computerized College Algebra with Applications (3 semester hours) This computer-based course is intended for students NOT continuing on to precalculus or calculus. Topics chosen from areas such as operations with fractions, exponents, inequalities, linear equations and graphs, use of algebra to model a variety of problems encountered in ordinary life. Cannot be used to satisfy major requirements for majors in the Schools of Natural Sciences and Mathematics or Management, or degree requirements for the School of Engineering and Computer Science. Credit given for only one of MATH 1300, 1306, or 1314. Prerequisite: High School Algebra II. (3-0) S

MATH 1314 College Algebra (3 semester hours) Topics chosen from areas such as equations and inequalities, rational expressions, exponents, radicals and logarithms, functions, and graphs. Cannot be used to satisfy major requirements for majors in the Schools of Natural Sciences and Mathematics or Management, or degree requirements for the School of Engineering and Computer Science. Credit given for only one of MATH 1300, 1308, or 1314. Prerequisite: High School Algebra II. (3-0) S

RHET 1302 (ENGL 1302) Rhetoric (3 semester hours) The course presents an integrated approach to writing, reading, and critical thinking by developing the grammatical, logical, and rhetorical skills necessary for university writing. All classes work in a computerized learning environment. Students are taught basic computer literacy and submit all work electronically and on paper. (3-0) S

STAT 1342 (MATH 1342) Statistical Decision Making (3 semester hours) Principles of quantitative decision making: summarizing data, modeling uncertainty, loss functions, probability, conditional probability, random variables. Introduction to statistics: estimation, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, regression. Introduction to statistical packages. Cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements for majors in the School of Engineering and Computer Science, or major requirements in the Schools of Management or Natural Sciences and Mathematics. Prerequisite: MATH 1300, MATH 1304, MATH 1314 or equivalent. (3-0) S