American Studies
DIRECTOR Teresa Goddu

VANDERBILT University’s program in American Studies offers an interdisciplinary graduate certificate program. The certificate in American Studies has been designed to complement students’ disciplinary training, expose them to interdisciplinary trends in the academy, and broaden their career possibilities. The American Studies certificate provides graduate students with training across an array of American Studies disciplines as well as training in interdisciplinary methodology. The certificate provides students with a valuable professional credential and strengthens their ability to compete for jobs as well as national fellowships and postdoctoral awards.

The certificate in American Studies is open to any student enrolled in graduate study at Vanderbilt University. Acceptance to the program requires the approval of both the Graduate Director of the student’s home department and the Director of the American Studies Program. Students must also submit an application that includes a one-page rationale for their course of study to the American Studies Graduate Committee for approval. Courses taken at Vanderbilt University prior to admission to the program may be counted toward the certificate requirements with the approval of the Director. The awarding of a Certificate requires an overall GPA of 3.3, satisfactory performance of B+ or better in AMER 300, completion of all distributional requirements, and successful completion of the Graduate Certificate paper.

Please contact the American Studies Program for more information at americanstudies@vanderbilt.edu or phone 615-343-8724.

Requirements for Graduate Certificate in American Studies
1. American Studies 300.
2. Four additional graduate-level American Studies courses appropriate to the student’s program of study. Courses must be approved by the Graduate Committee for credit and should include at least three courses outside the student’s home discipline. The students’ total course work must include courses from at least three different departments. One course may be satisfied through an independent study with a faculty member affiliated with the American Studies program, with the approval of the Director of American Studies. (See below for a list of approved graduate courses.)
3. A paper (30pp.) submitted to the Graduate Committee for evaluation. The paper must demonstrate the application of an American Studies methodology to research, teaching, or fieldwork. It should be a synthesis of interdisciplinary American Studies work in the context of the student’s primary field.


Approved list of courses:

AMERICAN STUDIES: 300, Graduate Workshop in American Studies.

ECONOMICS: 329a–329b, Labor Economics.
ENGLISH: 320, Studies in American Literature; 321, Studies in Southern Literature; 325, Seminar in British and American Literature (when an American Topic is offered); 337a, Introduction to Literary Theory (when an American Topic is offered); 337b, Special Topics in Literary Theory (when an American Topic is offered); 350, Special Problems in English and American Literature (when an American Topic is offered); 355, Special Topics in English and American Literature (when an American Topic is offered).


PHILOSOPHY: 350, Readings in Philosophy (when an American Topic is offered); 351, History of Philosophy (when an American Topic is offered); 352, Topics in Philosophy (when an American Topic is offered); 353, Figures in Philosophy (when an American Topic is offered); 363, Modern Philosophy (when an American Topic is offered); 364, Nineteenth-Century Philosophy (when an American Topic is offered); 365, Twentieth-Century Philosophy (when an American Topic is offered).


SOCIOLoGY: 301, Classical Sociological Theory and Major Theorists; 302, Contemporary Theory; 331, Survey Seminar on Inequalities and Movements; 333, Survey Seminar on Cultural Sociology; 335, Survey Seminar on Deviant Behavior and Social Control; 339, Survey Seminar on Political Sociology; 343, Survey Seminar on Social Psychology; 345, Survey Seminar on Social Stratification; 361, Special Topic Seminars on Social Phenomena at the Macro Level; 363, Special Topic Seminars on Institutions and Organizations; 367, Special Topic Seminars on Norms, Power, and Related Normative Phenomena; 368, Special Topic Seminars on Social Processes and Social Change.


WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES: 301, Gender and Sexuality: Feminist Approaches; 302, Gender and Pedagogy.