

# California State University, Long Beach 2025-2026 Undergraduate and Graduate Catalog

## Courses

[Contract All Courses](#) |

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### American Studies

#### **AMST 142 - Race and Hollywood**

(3 units)

Corequisite: One Foundation Course.

Examines the role of Hollywood in shaping understandings of race in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Provides an interdisciplinary look at how film influenced and shapes American racial discourse, and how race shaped the development of the medium of film in both form and content.

Both grading options.

#### **AMST 152 - Surfing and American Culture**

(3 units)

Corequisite: One Foundation Course

Examines a popular recreational activity, industry, and lifestyle associated with Southern California.

Traces the history of surfing and surf culture, connecting it to themes including colonialism, capitalism, race and gender, the military industrial complex, subcultural studies, environmentalism, and globalization.

Both grading options.

#### **AMST 300 - Introduction to American Studies**

(3 units)

Interdisciplinary approaches to study of American civilization from colonial period through twentieth century. Significant issues and problems in American life examined from perspectives of several disciplines.

Both grading options.

## **AMST 310 - Foodways in Contemporary America**

(3 units)

Prerequisites: Completion of GE Foundation Courses

Examines the production and consumption of food in the U.S. after 1945, comparatively exploring issues of race, class, gender, and inter-ethnic relations. Themes include food as “Americanization,” “authentic” cuisine, politics of sustainability, and social justice in the food industry.

Letter grade only (A-F).

## **AMST 325 - Beauty Matters: Culture, Politics, Labor**

(3 units)

Prerequisites: Completion of GE Foundation courses.

Interrogates the development of beauty and grooming ideologies, politics, and care work in the context of the beauty service industry, focusing on the social, cultural, and spatial processes of intimate and affective relations of race, class, gender, and sexuality at the salon and barbershop.

Both grading options. Same course as ASAM 325. Not repeatable for credit.

## **AMST 350 - California Culture**

(3 units)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirement; upper-division standing.

Interdisciplinary examination of California culture. Emphasis on how California’s history, politics, environment, social movements, art, and literature produce a contested and always changing culture.

Both grading options.

## **AMST 351 - Celebrity in American Culture**

(3 units)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirement; upper-division standing

Interdisciplinary examination of the changing meanings of fame in American society, addressing the production, consumption and cultural work of celebrity.

Both grading options.

## **AMST 360 - Explorations in American Popular Culture**

(3 units)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirement; upper-division standing.

Examines broad terrain of American popular culture from multiple disciplinary perspectives, interrogating both the form and content of cultural production and reception in the past and present.

Both grading options. Not open for credit to students with credit in AMST 200.

## **AMST 361 - Sports in American Culture**

(3 units)

Critical study of sport as performance and spectacle; representations of sport in art, music, literature, and folklore to study the social history of American ideals and values; sport and community formation; cultural dimensions of spectator sport.

Both grading options.

## **AMST 399 - Labor Activism in Los Angeles**

(3 units)

Prerequisite(s): GE Foundation; upper-division status.

Examines labor and labor relations, intersectionally, in Los Angeles, alongside the fight for worker's rights and claims to humanity. Focuses on understanding of labor and labor struggles through locally pertinent industries and their efforts for social justice.

Both grading options. Not repeatable for credit.

## **AMST 419 - The Suburbs**

(3 units)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation Requirement; upper-division standing.

Examines the place of the American suburbs in the geographical, social, political, and cultural landscape of the United States. As part of the course, each student will "adopt a suburb" and produce an original research profile of a local suburban community.

Both grading options.

## **AMST 421 - Animals in American Culture**

(3 units)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirement; upper-division standing

Interdisciplinary examination of the role of non-human animals in making cultural meaning. Traces the many ways in which animals, not just humans, have shaped American history and culture.

Both grading options.

## **AMST 426 - The American Studies Mixtape**

(3 units)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation requirement; upper-division standing.

Examines American popular music since the 1960s, covering multiple genres, including hip hop, rock & roll, country, millennial pop, and punk rock. Connects popular music to key historical events while focusing on our personal connections with music and how music gives meaning to our experiences.

Both grading options. Not repeatable for credit.

## **AMST 453 - Television Borders: Cultural crossings in the US Southwest and South**

(3 units)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation; Upper-division status.

This course examines how television is central to the cultural construction of borders. It is a medium that facilitates cultural border-crossings that traverse space and place, while also reinforcing social, cultural, and political divides in the US. Topics include, the origins of television broadcasting, production, federal communication policies and regulation, and struggles over collective national identity in the American Southwest and South.

Both grading options. Same course as: HIST 453. Not repeatable for credit. Not open for credit to those with existing credit in HIST 453.

## **AMST 467 - Histories and Cultures of Long Beach**

(3 units)

Prerequisite(s): GE Foundations; Upper-division status.

Interdisciplinary examination of the past, present, and future of Long Beach, California. Traces the history of Long Beach and its diverse peoples, cultures, and traditions, connecting them to contemporary issues confronting the local community.

Letter Grade Only (A-F). Not repeatable for credit.

## **AMST 495 - Selected Topics in American Studies**

(3 units)

Prerequisites: GE Foundation; upper-division status.

Topics of current interest in American Studies selected for intensive development.

Both grading options. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 units with different topics in different semesters. Topics announced in *Schedule of Classes*.

## **AMST 498 - Senior Seminar in American Studies**

(3 units)

Prerequisite: Completion of [AMST 300](#)

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Corequisite: 6 additional units of upper-division AMST courses.

Capstone research course for American Studies majors

Letter grade only (A-F).

## **AMST 499 - Directed Studies in American Studies**

(1-4 units)

Prerequisite/Corequisite: Consent of instructor.

Independent study in American Studies under the supervision of a faculty member.

Letter grade only (A-F). May be repeated to 6 units in different semesters.