

## Why a Master's Degree in American Studies?

Since its inception in the 1940's, the interdisciplinary field of American Studies has been at the leading edge of scholarly efforts to understand the workings of American society and culture. An advanced degree in American Studies contributes breadth and depth of vision to people working in a variety of fields, including secondary and higher education, law, advertising, business and organizational administration, and social work.

### Contact Information

Please direct all inquiries to:

#### Graduate Director

Department of Humanities and  
American Studies  
4202 E. Fowler Ave. CPR 107  
Tampa, FL 33620

#### Graduate Director:

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University of South Florida  
Department of Humanities and American Studies  
4202 E. Fowler Ave.  
CPR 107  
Tampa, FL 33620

# Master's Degree in AMERICAN STUDIES



in the Department of  
HUMANITIES &  
AMERICAN STUDIES  
at



## Program Description

The Master of Arts in American Studies offers students the opportunity to study the social relations and cultural patterns that have both unified and divided Americans over time. Topics covered include popular and elite cultures; the material and technological foundations of American society; cultural heroines and heroes; and the values, ideals, and lifestyles of ordinary people as well as those of recognized historical figures. Students learn how to analyze a broad range of texts, including literature, art, film, and material culture, for evidence of these patterns in American life and culture.

The Master's degree in American Studies program requires a total of 33 credit hours, including 27 hours of coursework and 6 hours of thesis. Normal time-to-degree for a full-time student is two years.

Recently offered courses include:

American Culture of the 1950s, 60s and 70s  
American Domesticity  
American Utopia  
Cultures of the American Southwest  
Florida on Film  
Jazz and Civil Rights  
Photography in American Culture  
Native American Culture  
Nineteenth-century American Culture  
Place and Mobility in American Society  
The American West  
The Blues  
Theories and Methods of Cultural Studies  
Wilderness in the American Imagination

## Core Departmental Faculty



**Dr. Ruth Banes**  
PhD American Studies 1978  
University of New Mexico



**Dr. Daniel Belgrad**  
PhD American Studies, 1994  
Yale University



**Dr. Andrew Berish**  
PhD Musicology, 2005  
University of California, Los Angeles



**Dr. Priscilla Brewer**  
PhD American Civilization, 1987  
Brown University



**Dr. Elaine Smith**  
PhD English, 1984  
Stanford University

## Affiliate Faculty

**Dr. Navita James**  
PhD Speech Communication, 1981  
Ohio University

**Dr. Roy Kaplan**  
PhD Sociology, 1971  
University of Massachusetts

**Dr. Robert Snyder**  
PhD Interdisciplinary Social Science, 1980  
Syracuse University

## How to Apply

Prospective students should consult [www.grad.usf.edu](http://www.grad.usf.edu) to download an application form for the Graduate School at USF. This web page also offers an application check list detailing the items required by the Graduate School for the application process. Applications must be received by the following dates:

Oct. 15 for spring admission  
March 1 for summer admission  
March 15 for fall admission  
**(late applications accepted until June 1)**

Transcripts should demonstrate a minimum GPA of 3.0 in upper-level undergraduate coursework.

All applicants must also take the GRE test. Successful applicants will have a minimum verbal score of 500, with a minimum score of 4.5 in the analytical writing portion of the test.

In addition, an academic writing sample should be sent directly to the American Studies program at the following address:

**Graduate Director**  
Department of Humanities and  
American Studies  
4202 E. Fowler Ave.  
CPR 107  
Tampa, FL 33620

Please visit us on the web at  
<http://www.cas.usf.edu/humanities>  
or contact the graduate director at  
[ams@cas.usf.edu](mailto:ams@cas.usf.edu) for further information.