

# Guide for American Studies Majors

In order to graduate, you must fulfill all college and university requirements, as well as all American Studies major requirements. College and University requirements include General Education courses, Gordon Rule courses and Exit courses.

## GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

General Education requirements are:

- ✓ 6 credit hours: English Composition
- ✓ 6 credit hours: Natural Sciences
- ✓ 6 credit hours: Historical Perspectives
- ✓ 3 credit hours: Fine Arts
- ✓ 6 credit hours: Math (Quantitative Methods)
- ✓ 6 credit hours: Social Sciences
- ✓ 3 credit hours: Non-Western Cultures (ALAMEA)

These requirements are met through specifically designated courses listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and the Schedule of Classes.

Helpful Tips:

Many American Studies majors will find the following math courses particularly appropriate:

MGF 1106 - Finite Mathematics &

MGF 1107 - Mathematics for Liberal Arts

You may use one (1) of the two following courses to satisfy 3 of the 6 credit hours required for math:

PHI 2101 - Introduction to Formal Logic –OR–

STA 1022 - Basic Statistics

## EXIT REQUIREMENTS

The Foreign language requirement is met by achieving a grade of C or better in at least 2 college level (no Intro courses) semesters of the same foreign language, or by achieving a sufficiently high enough score on a placement test offered by the Department of World Language Education (CPR 419, 974-2547). If you are beginning the study of a language and must take an Intro course, you must complete 2 semesters at the college level. If you wish to continue work in a language you have already studied, you must take a placement test before registering. A high enough score on the test may satisfy the requirement.

3 credit hours in a Literature and Writing course must be completed; 6 credit hours in a Major Works and Major Issues course must also be completed. The courses designated as fulfilling these requirements are listed in the Undergraduate Catalog and the Schedule of Classes. Of the 9 total hours, 3 must come from OUTSIDE of the following departments:

American Studies, Classics, Communication, English, All Foreign Languages, Humanities, Liberal Studies, Mass Communications, Philosophy and Religious Studies.

\*\*Note: AMS 4804 (Major Ideas in America) is required of all American Studies Majors, and it satisfies 3 of the 6 credit hours required for Major works and Major Issues.

## GORDON RULE REQUIREMENTS

All Gordon Rule requirements EXCEPT for 3 credit hours of Writing are met by completing General Education, Exit and American Studies requirements. Courses that fulfill the remaining 3 credit hours for the Gordon Rule requirement are listed in the Undergraduate catalog and the Schedule of Classes.

\*\*Note: AMS 3001, AMS 3260 and AMS 3370 are Gordon Rule classes that will fulfill the remaining 3 hours.

## **AMERICAN STUDIES REQUIREMENTS**

The American Studies major requires a total of 36 credit hours:

- ✓ 3 credit hours: AMS 2030 - Introduction to American Studies.
- ✓ 3 credit hours: Any one (1) of the following introductory courses: AMS 2201, 2212 or 2270.
- ✓ 3 or 4 credit hours: One (1) 3000 level course focusing on a historical period (e.g. AMS 3230, 3001 or 3260).
- ✓ 3 or 4 credit hours: One (1) 3- or 4000 level course focusing on a region (e.g. AMS 3210) or a genre (e.g. AMS 3601, 4152).
- ✓ 3 credit hours: Major Ideas in America (AMS 4804).
- ✓ 4 credit hours: One (1) senior-level research seminar (AMS 4935 or 4936).
- ✓ 6-8 credit hours: 3- or 4000 level American Studies electives.
- ✓ 9-10 credit hours: Supporting courses in AMS-related disciplines. To qualify, at least half of the course material in that class must cover an American topic (ie: American History, American Literature, etc.). You are encouraged to discuss the acceptability of a course with your advisor.

## **SEEING THE UNDERGRADUATE ADVISOR**

It is strongly recommended that you contact your advisor at least once per semester to review your progress, plan your program, and ensure that you are meeting the requirements for graduation. Aristoula Mandelos is the Undergraduate Advisor. She may be reached at 974-9371, or mandelos@cas.usf.edu. Her office hours will vary from semester to semester.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Robertson-Harkness Scholarship in American Studies is available to enrolled declared American Studies majors. There are one or more awards of approximately \$250, and the applications are normally available early in the spring semester. Consult the undergraduate advisor for applications and more information.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Directed studies and internships are not regularly scheduled classes. A faculty member may occasionally arrange to supervise a student for one or more hours of directed study, or up to two hours of an internship at an approved institution. Such arrangements would depend on that faculty member's expertise in a given subject, and willingness to undertake supervision of a student. Most importantly, the student must demonstrate sufficient preparation and capacity for independent work. Students should NOT expect to substitute directed studies or internships for regular course offerings out of scheduling convenience. No more than 4 hours of directed study and/or 4 hours of internships will normally be accepted towards the American Studies major requirements. The undergraduate advisor can provide additional information about, but will not normally set up or supervise internships and directed studies.

For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.cas.usf.edu/humanities>.