

# American Studies





# What is American Studies?



**American Studies** is an innovative program that introduces students to the social, political, historical, and cultural dimensions of the United States. The program also looks at America's role in the world and its relationship with other countries. Students study American history, literature and arts, and the United States social, economic, political and philosophical development in an effort to understand the meaning and significance of the American identity. This program is interdisciplinary, which means the courses that make up the American Studies program are offered by several departments at Western, such as: English, History, Film Studies, and Political Science.

## Why Study American Studies?

This program, one of only a handful in Canada, offers students an opportunity to examine current issues in American politics and culture, which shape the world we live in today and the international world of tomorrow. The study of our neighbouring country is extremely relevant and important given the global context of the world today and America's position as a major world power.

## Areas of Study

- **American Studies (Major, Minor)**
- **American Cultural Studies (Honors Specialization)**  
Examines the American cultural identity through the study of related courses in literature, art, music, the media, and pop culture.
- **Canadian-American Relations (Honors Specialization)**  
Addresses political and economic links, security issues, and cross-cultural identities of the United States and Canada.

Students who are pursuing American Studies often combine this program with studies in History or Political Science.

## Sample Courses

### *American Popular Culture*

This course examines the development of American popular culture and its relation to American society. The topics covered include: music, literature, radio, movies, sports and television.

### *Canada and the United States*

This course analyzes and compares a variety of themes which have been important in the development of both Canadian and American society. It also examines the involved and often difficult relationship of Canada and the United States, with an emphasis on the patterns of political, social, economic, and military interaction.

## After Graduation

The program prepares students for careers related to research, government, business, non-governmental organizations, journalism, and a host of other occupations that demand an understanding of the culture and politics of the United States.

## Careers of Graduates

- Director of Member Services – American Library Association
- Attorney
- Teacher
- Policy Link Consultant
- Associate Dean of Admission
- Copy Editor – *American Banker*



*"In its premier year, the American Studies program at Western has been exceptional. The American Studies program offers a wide variety of courses to choose from, and excellent professors who teach them. I would highly recommend this program!"*

Kristen Way  
Honors Specialization in American Cultural Studies (2007)  
Currently pursuing an M.A. in Public History  
The University of Western Ontario

*"The American Studies program has increased my interest in the subject tenfold. It's in-depth, exciting, captivating, and taught by insightful, intelligent and good-humoured professors."*

David Beitelman  
Political Science Honors Specialization, American Studies Minor



For more information on  
**American Studies**, please visit:  
<http://cas.ssc.uwo.ca/>