

**DEGREE/PROGRAM CHANGE
FORM C
Form Number: C1587**

Fields marked with * are required

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Associated Forms exist? Yes Initiator's Title Dept Administrator I: AS American Studies Gen Admi
Faculty Contact Alex Lubin Administrative Contact Sandy Rodrigue
Department American Studies Admin Email rodrigue@unm.edu
Branch Main Admin Phone 277-3929

Proposed effective term

Semester Please Select Year 2015

Course Information

Select Appropriate Program Graduate Degree Program
Name of New or Existing Program MA & PhD American Studies
Select Category Major Degree Type
Select Action Revision

Exact Title and Requirements as they should appear in the catalog. If there is a change, upload current and proposed requirements.

See current catalog for format within the respective college (upload a doc/pdf file)

[Form C Graduate Program Catalog Revisions.doc](#)

Does this change affect other departmental program/branch campuses? If yes, indicate below.

Reason(s) for Request (enter text below or upload a doc/pdf file)

The department has been engaged in a long-term conversation about updating its graduate program to provide more in depth training to its students in a variety of areas. As part of the department's APR self-study process, it has been determined that this is an appropriate time to make these adjustments. This includes creating a required sequence of classes for new graduate students to take in order to receive a more firm foundation in the theories, methods, and authors important to the field of American Studies.

Upload a document that includes justification for the program, impact on long-range planning, detailed budget analysis and faculty workload implications.(upload a doc/pdf file)

[Form C Grad Program Budget Faculty Load Implications.doc](#)

Are you proposing a new undergraduate degree or new undergraduate certificate? If yes, upload the following documents.

Upload a two-page Executive Summary authorized by Associate Provost. (upload a doc/pdf file)

Upload memo from Associate Provost authorizing go-ahead to full proposal. (upload a doc/pdf file)

Graduate Program

Graduate Advisor

Varies, contact department office.

Application Deadlines

Annual: January 15.

NOTE: Early application is recommended. No new applications are accepted after January 15.

Degrees Offered

- **Master of Arts in American Studies (M.A.)**
- **Doctor of Philosophy in American Studies (Ph.D.)**

The Department of American Studies is committed to the interdisciplinary study of American culture and society as a whole. Besides general courses in American life and thought, six areas of study are offered: Cultural Studies (including folklore and material culture); Southwest Studies; Environment, Science and Technology; Popular Culture; Gender Studies; Race, Class and Ethnicity. Students consult with department faculty to develop individual, inter-departmental programs of study in the humanities and social sciences that focus on these or other significant aspects of American society and thought.

Master of Arts in American Studies

Admission

Applicants to the master's program in American Studies should hold a bachelor's degree in American Studies or a related field such as Art History, History, English, Philosophy, Economics, Education, Political Science, Sociology, Anthropology, Women Studies, or Ethnic Studies. In making their application, candidates are expected to submit a substantive letter of intent with a clear statement of their American Studies research interests and their goals in pursuing such investigations on a graduate level. Only candidates who show purpose and promise, and whose research needs can be appropriately met, are admitted by a committee of the department faculty.

Program Options

Taking into consideration the experience and purposes of each student, individualized programs are planned to emphasize two major areas of interest with supplementary work in other areas.

The master's is offered under **Plan I** (thesis) and **Plan II** (non-thesis) as described in this Catalog. The master's program in either case requires an interdisciplinary and interdepartmental grouping of courses for the study of American culture. Under Plan II, the student must successfully complete a minimum of 33 credit hours of graduate work. Plan I (thesis) calls for at least 27 credit hours of coursework in addition to at least six (6) thesis credit hours.

All graduate students must take the following in their first three semesters in the program:

AMST 500 - American Culture Study Seminar in the first fall semester

AMST 501 – Theories & Methods of American Studies in the first spring semester

AMST 600 – Research Methods Practicum in the second fall semester

They must also take at least three other American Studies seminars during their graduate career.

Doctor of Philosophy in American Studies

Applicants to the doctoral program should have a background in American Studies or a related field such as Art History, History, English, Philosophy, Economics, Education, Political Science, Sociology, Anthropology, Women Studies, or Ethnic Studies. In making their application, candidates are expected to submit a substantive letter of intent with a clear statement of their American Studies research interests and their goals in pursuing such investigations on a graduate level. Only candidates who show purpose and promise, and whose research needs can be appropriately met, are admitted by a committee of the department faculty.

Course Requirements

Taking into consideration the experience and purposes of each student, individualized programs are planned to emphasize three major areas of interest with supplementary work in other areas.

At least 48 credit hours of coursework are required for the doctorate. They are as follows:

Required introductory graduate sequence (500, 501, 600) – 9 credit hours

American Studies graduate seminars (500-level) – 18 credit hours

Graduate electives (in AMST or interdepartmental) – 15 credit hours

Independent Study in preparation for comprehensive exam – 6 credit hours

Note: Students with an existing MA may transfer up to 18-credit hours of work at the discretion of the department.

Dissertation hours – minimum of 18 credit hours

Foreign Language

In addition to the course requirements for the doctorate, the American Studies Department language requirement may be fulfilled either through the various options approved by the Office of Graduate Studies or through satisfactory completion of an alternative methodology option to be determined by the student in consultation with the student's committee on studies and the chairperson of the department.

Examination

The comprehensive examination is taken after completion of course work. It is a written examination, the primary purpose of which is to ascertain the candidate's ability at synthesizing the subject matter and various methodologies covered during his or her time in the program. Detailed guidelines for the comprehensive examination are available through the department.

Dissertation

The dissertation concerns itself with at least three disciplines in a specific area of American life.

Requirements for Graduate Minor in American Studies

The "declared minor" in American Studies is only available for Master's level students at present. To complete the minor, students must complete 9 credit hours of 500-level courses (seminars) under Plan I. Under Plan II students need 12 credit hours of 500-level courses. Under either plan, 1–3 credit hours of Independent Study with a faculty member in American Studies can count toward the minor. AMST 500 is a restricted course and does not count toward the minor.

American Studies graduate students who wish to do a minor in another department should do so in consultation with their academic advisor and should contact the other department for specific guidelines for the minor. Faculty members in American Studies may opt to waive their right to serve on a committee of studies outside American Studies. Plan I students may take no more than 9 credit hours of graduate course work in any other single department, and Plan II students may do no more than 15 credit hours of graduate course work in any other single department.

Courses in American Studies (AMST) are categorized in areas of interest. The category for each course appears in parenthesis at the end of the course description according to the following legend:

General (G); Cultural Studies (C); Environment, Science, Technology (EST); Gender Studies (GS); Popular Culture (PC); Race, Class and Ethnicity (RCE); and Southwest Studies (SS).

Justification for change to program

The department has been engaged in a long-term conversation about updating its graduate program to provide more in depth training to its students in a variety of areas. As part of the department's APR self-study process, it has been determined that this is an appropriate time to make these adjustments. This includes creating a required sequence of classes for new graduate students to take in order to receive a more firm foundation in the theories, methods, and authors important to the field of American Studies.

Budgetary and faculty load implications

All of the courses in the American Studies graduate program are taught by full time faculty members as part of their regular teaching load. The department's number of faculty have grown in the past four years, and as such there are more faculty available to teach both the required sequence of courses and other graduate seminars and undergraduate offerings. Because professors will teach these as part of their regular teaching loads, there will be no additional impact on budget or faculty load.

Impact on long range plans for program and University

We are convinced that this curriculum revision will improve learning outcomes and reduce time-to-degree for our graduate program.

Impact on program completion requirements

While we are adding a new required sequence, we are not increasing the total hours currently required of the PhD program.

Impact on facilities, equipment, technology needs

These proposed changes do not require any special facilities, equipment or technology. They will be offered in the department's seminar room, and do not require any special equipment in their teaching. Requests for new technology or equipment would not be made as a result of these changes being approved.

Impact on staff support

There is no foreseen impact in this area. Staff would provide normal support to the instructors, only ensuring the classes are scheduled regularly.