AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

This multidisciplinary major is designed to provide students with a critical understanding of the historical, cultural, social, and political experience of African Americans, with a particular emphasis on the development and culture of the African American communities in California and the West, as well as on both historical and contemporary effects of global issues on African American communities.

Opportunities for Students

- **Junior and Senior seminars:** All students are required to take these seminar courses, in which they work closely with internationally recognized faculty to complete substantial projects in the field. These seminars prepare students for graduate work in the field and related research and writing projects in professional schools, such as Law, Business, and Communication.

- **California African American Museum:** Located across the street from campus, this museum allows students the chance to research and observe the history, art, and culture of African Americans, with an emphasis on California and the western United States.

- **Center for Diversity & Democracy:** The CDD works with faculty, students, and community partners to enhance, explore, and develop strong connections between efforts of university-community civic engagement and the diversity of university faculty and students. It is committed to making stronger a diverse set of voices at the university, while enabling a wide variety of community members and organizations to engage the university as equal partners towards equity and social justice.

Notable Courses

- **AMST 101: Race and Class in Los Angeles** — Analysis of race and the economic, political, gender, and social dimensions of contemporary Los Angeles including topics such as residential segregation, economic inequality, and city politics.

- **AMST 200: Introduction to American Studies and Ethnicity** — Introduction to American studies and ethnic studies. Provides an overview of major theories, concepts, and issues.

- **AMST 285: African American Popular Culture** — Examines history of popular cultural forms such as literature, music, dance, theatre, and visual arts produced by and about African Americans.

- **POSC 427: Black Politics in the American Political System** — The effects of the organization of the American political system and its operations on blacks and other minorities.
Bachelor of Arts (BA) Requirements

Core Requirements*
- AMST 200: Introduction to American Studies and Ethnicity
- AMST 350: Junior Seminar in American Studies and Ethnicity: Theories and Methods
- AMST 498: Senior Seminar in American Studies and Ethnicity

History Course (select one)*
- AMST 250: The African Diaspora
- HIST 355: The African American Experience
- HIST 455: Advanced Topics in African American History

Literature & Culture Course (select one)**
- AHIS 365: African American Art
- CTCS 407: African American Cinema
- ENGL 446: African American Poetry and Drama
- ENGL 447 African American Narrative

Social & Political Issues Course (select one)**
- AMST 206: The Politics and Culture of the 1960s
- AMST 348: Race and Environmentalism
- PSYC 462: Minority Mental Health
- POSC 427: Black Politics in the American Political System
- REL 469: Black Religion in America

Electives (select four)**
- AMST 301: American, the Frontier, and the New West
- AMST 320: Social Constructions of Race and Citizenship
- AMST 353: Race and Racism in the Americas
- COMM 458: Race and Ethnicity in Entertainment and the Arts
- POSC 424: Political Participation and American Diversity
- SOCI 432: Racial and Ethnic Relations in a Global Society

*This information is offered as a partial overview only. For additional information, including all major requirements, please consult the USC Catalogue or http://dornsife.usc.edu/ase/african-american-studies/. Updated as of August 2015.

**This does not represent all options in this category. For a complete list, please consult the USC Catalogue.