AMERICAN STUDIES & ETHNICITY

This major integrates humanistic and social scientific perspectives and brings them to bear on an examination of the United States with a particular emphasis on comparative study of the peoples, cultures, history, and social issues of the Western United States. It covers critical perspectives on regional, ethnic, class, and gender diversity.

Opportunities for Students

- **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.

- **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.

- **Honors Program:** Students in this program take ASE 492, a senior seminar focused on developing their research and methods for an honors thesis. They follow this course with ASE 493, in which each student completes a thesis project on a topic of his or her choice under faculty direction.

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 202: Interethnic Diversity in the West** — Introduction to community, culture, and ethnicity within the Western United States with emphasis on African American, Asian American, and Chicano/Latino cultures and social patterns.

- **AMST 320: Social Construction of Race and Citizenship** — Comparative perspective on the social construction of race and citizenship. Social, economic, and political experiences of selected groups in the U.S. are examined.
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 373: History of the Mexican American
- AMST 378: Introduction to Asian American History
- AMST 379: Arabs in America

Literature & Culture Course (select one)**
- AMST 377: Legacies of Viet Nam
- AMST 448: Chicano and Latino Literature
- AHIS 465: Studies in American Art

Social & Political Course (select one)**
- AMST 301: America, the Frontier, and the New West
- AMST 395: African American Humor and Culture
- AMST 446: Cultural Circuits in the Americas

Electives (select four)**
- HIST 354: Mexican Migration to the United States
- HIST 380: American Popular Culture
- COMM 458: Race and Ethnicity in Entertainment and the Arts
- REL 336: Re-viewing Religion in Asia America
- AMST 348: Race and Environmentalism
- ANTH 240: Collective Identity and Political Violence — Representing 9/11

*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/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.