



American Studies at UNM provides students with the tools to understand their lived experience in relation to questions of identity, place, and power. Our classes offer new ways to not only learn about systems of racism, colonialism, capitalism, nationalism, and gender and sexual normativity as they impact our lives, but also to actively transform the world in which we live. Rather than focusing mainly on the study of "American culture," American Studies encourages students to begin from an understanding of the specific place and context in which we study in order to unsettle the relations of power at work in conventional ways of making sense of the world. Since its beginning, our department has maintained a hemispheric and global perspective, while also focusing on scholarly explorations of the Southwest and New Mexico.

American Studies offers students the combination of flexibility and focus to develop their own their own specific areas of interest. We are interdisciplinary in that our faculty come from a variety of academic disciplines and our students receive training in a broad range of historical, literary, visual, and ethnographic approaches. The specific field of study called American Studies first emerged in response to the global crises of the 1930s with the idea that studying contemporary society requires more than one set of scholarly tools for analysis. In a world where social, economic, political, and environmental crisis appears as a regular feature of our lives, American Studies brings a sense of the urgency and purpose with which we engage in scholarly inquiry.



## The American Studies Department at UNM

Small classes, engaged faculty, and a truly diverse and interesting community of scholars make the American Studies department intellectually exciting, rigorous, and relevant to student interests.

### For more information:

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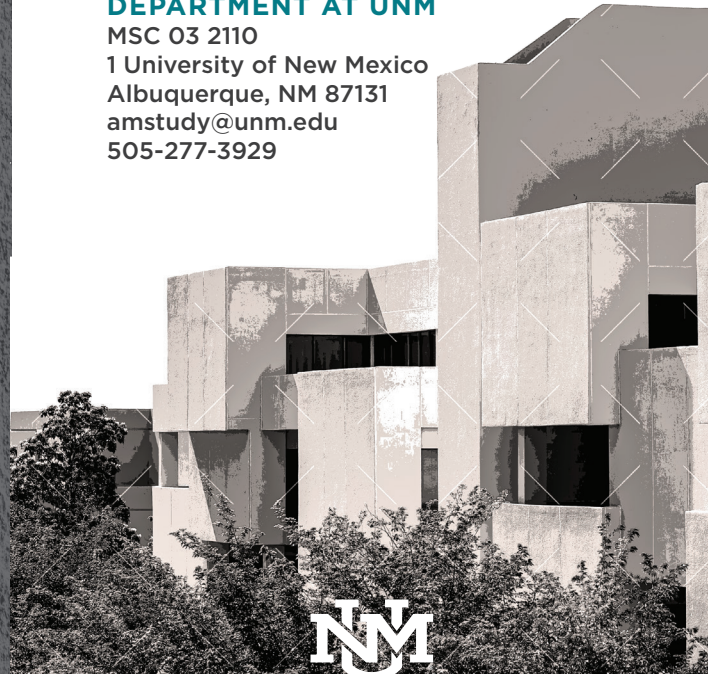
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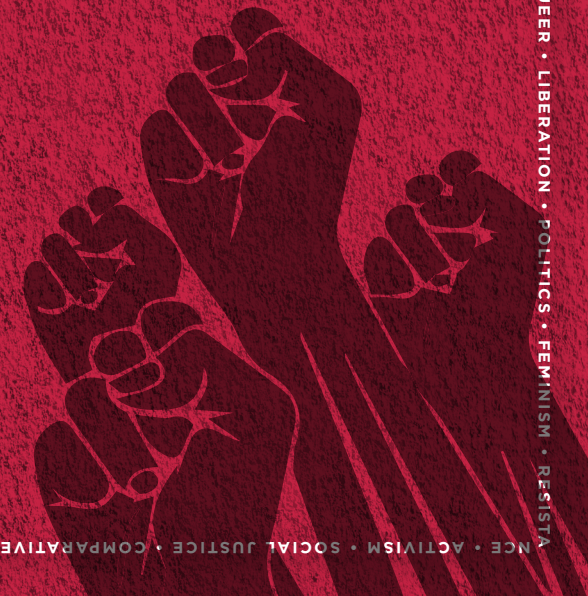
SOCIAL JUSTICE • COMPARATIVE RACE STUDIES • SOUTH

WEST • BORDERLANDS • COMMUNITY • ENVIRONMENT • TRANSNATIONAL • INDIGENOUS • QUEER • LIBERATION • POLITICS •

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN  
TAKING COURSES SUCH AS  
"U.S. WAR ON TERROR,"  
"SEX AND CITIZENSHIP,"  
"DECOLONIZATION," AND  
"INDIGENOUS FILM?" IF SO,

# American Studies

MAY BE THE  
MAJOR FOR YOU!



STUDIES • SOUTHWEST • BORDERLANDS • COMMUNITY • ENVIRONMENT • TRANSNATIONAL • INDIGENOUS • QUEER • LIBERATION • POLITICS • FEMINISM • RESISTANCE • ACTIVISM • SOCIAL JUSTICE • COMPARATIVE RACE

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# The American Studies Undergraduate Program

FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS, THE DEPARTMENT OF AMERICAN STUDIES HAS PROVIDED STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO WITH A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO THEIR SPECIFIC AREAS OF INTEREST AND RECEIVE TRAINING IN A BROAD RANGE OF RESEARCH METHODS.

The undergraduate program in American Studies is designed to familiarize students with a wide range of scholarship as a basis for their pursuit of specific programs of study. We encourage students to develop programs of study that creatively combine resources of multiple colleges and departments at UNM. Students can enroll in community-engaged coursework, collaborate with faculty on community-engaged research projects, and take internships with organizations in New Mexico. In recent years, we have received funding to offer paid internships for students at the New Mexico Office of the State Historian and the National Hispanic Cultural Center.

## What can you do with an American Studies degree?

A bachelor's degree in American studies prepares students to ask critical questions and conduct sophisticated research using multiple methods. Careers for people majoring in American Studies are as diverse as the students who select the major. American Studies undergraduates have pursued careers in academia, public policy, secondary education and cultural institutions in the arts, social sciences, journalism, the legal field, and government.

## Coursework Areas

- Environmental and Social Justice
- Gender/Sexuality
- Visual Culture/Popular Culture
- Critical Race Studies
- Southwest and Borderlands Studies
- Critical Indigenous Studies
- Latinx Studies

## Southwest Concentration

Delve into the history, environment, cultures, and politics of the U.S. Southwest with this concentration, offered through our faculty with unmatched expertise.

## Advisement

Students majoring or minoring in American Studies work closely with our undergraduate advisor to create an approved individualized plan of study including coursework in American Studies and related departments. American Studies majors complete a minimum of 36 semester hours that includes a three-credit introductory course and two other required seminars. American Studies minors complete a minimum of 21 semester hours that includes a three-credit introductory course and one required seminar.

## Departmental Honors

American Studies majors are encouraged to apply for Departmental Honors, which involves working with faculty mentors to develop a 30-page thesis. The Department also awards an Honors Thesis Prize. Please consult the department's website for requirements and instructions.

## Constance Shortlidge Prize

Every year the department awards the Constance Shortlidge Prize for academic excellence to one or two outstanding American Studies undergraduate students.