

AMERICAN MULTICULTURAL STUDIES

DEPARTMENT OFFICE

Nichols Hall 214
(707) 664-2486
www.sonoma.edu/depts/amcs

DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Michael Ezra

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Linnea Mullins

Faculty

Christina Baker / Education; Race and Gender; Mass Media and Society; Race/Ethnicity and Identity

Michael Ezra / African American History & Culture; 20th Century US History; Race Relations; Sport History; Popular Culture

Elenita Strobel / Transformative Education; Postcolonial Studies; Race, Ethnicity & Race Relations; Globalization Studies; Language, Culture & Identity

Kim D. Hester Williams / African American Literature and Aesthetics; 19th Century Literature and Culture; Multi-ethnic Literature; Gender, Race, and Visual Representation

Programs Offered

Bachelor of Arts in American Multicultural Studies

Minor in American Multicultural Studies

Concentration in Africana Studies

Film Studies Minor

Since 1971, the American Multicultural Studies Department (AMCS) has taken an interdisciplinary and comparative approach to teaching students about the importance of race and ethnicity to people living in the United States. The AMCS Department provides students with the theoretical foundation to understand the complexity of these issues while training them to develop cultural competence, critical thinking, and leadership skills that will empower students to navigate the fast-changing multicultural and multiracial American landscape.

The AMCS Department is listed under American Studies programs in the CSU system. The newly-revised AMCS program reflects an innovative trend in American studies that is truly interdisciplinary. The core program remains grounded in Critical Ethnic Studies and the concentration and pathways draw upon concepts and methods in other disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. The revised program will enable students to develop multi- and intercultural competence, critical thinking, and leadership skills that will help them navigate the fast-changing multicultural and multiracial American landscape.

Our classes focus on the histories and cultures of African Americans, Chicanos and Latinos, Asian Americans, Multiracial Americans, and Native American Indians so that students may understand more deeply America's multicultural heritage and future. Correspondingly, the teaching and research interests of our faculty explore how race and ethnicity intersect with power and inequality. Some of these areas of expertise are: Race and Representation; Race and Equality in Education; Race and Popular Culture; Race and Ethnicity in the Arts, Literature and Media; Race and Globalization; Multiracial Experience; Civil Rights Movement; Social Policy; Decolonization and Indigenization.

AMCS is committed to graduating students who have the knowledge and skills to live and work productively and competently in an increasingly diverse world. The faculty is committed to shaping students into culturally informed citizens who can make positive impacts on their communities. Students who complete our major or minor program will have the tools to adapt to a rapidly changing multicultural environment. At the core of our mission is the hope that our work will lead to a better world.

Through the various "AMCS Pathways" and the "Concentration in Africana Studies," students who major in AMCS can choose to focus on an area of interest and have a wide range of courses to choose from across selected departments in the university. This approach to learning will enhance students' multicultural awareness and competence and serves as a vibrant and imperative aspect of our contemporary society.

The AMCS degree is versatile as evidenced by our graduates who are now practicing lawyers, college professors, social workers, educators, student affairs professionals, academic counselors, nonprofit administrators, arts administrators, and social entrepreneurs.

Careers in American Multicultural Studies

The AMCS major encourages students to develop an in-depth understanding of American cultures and ethnicities in the 21st century. Since it is predicted that the U.S. will be fifty percent non-white in 2050, our goal is to teach the analytical tools for understanding the United States as a multiracial, multiethnic, multicultural, and multilingual nation and to help students shape their vision of leadership, civic engagement, and professional development for the future.

We invite students to explore our multifaceted course offerings focused on issues of justice, equity, and equal access to opportunity for all.

The AMCS Department offers a Concentration in Africana Studies that includes an array of courses within the AMCS Department as well as participating departments across the university. Students pursuing this concentration will learn about African American and African Diasporic history and culture.

The AMCS Pathways allow students to choose from participating departments across the university in the following areas of interest:

- Comparative Ethnic Studies
- Hemispheric Studies
- Critical Race, Sex, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- Literature and the Arts
- Multicultural Education
- Film Studies
- Native American Studies

Faculty advisors will work closely with students in choosing their Pathway.

Bachelor of Arts in American Multicultural Studies

Admission into the Major

Each student majoring in AMCS is assigned a faculty advisor and consults with the advisor on progress toward the degree. Upon acceptance into the major, a transfer student's records will be reviewed to articulate the lower-division courses that are equivalent to those offered within the AMCS Department. A maximum of ten lower-division units may be transferred. Upper-division courses from four-year institutions may be transferred above and beyond the ten units of lower-division transfer towards the AMCS major, based on advisor approval. Students should use assist.org to view official articulation agreements between SSU and other California colleges.

Degree Requirements	Units
General education (50, 12-14 in major)	36-38
Major core requirements	20
Major electives	24
General electives	38-40
Total units needed for graduation	120

Students graduating with a B.A. in American Multicultural Studies must take 20 units of core courses and an additional 8 upper-division AMCS courses plus 16 units from their chosen AMCS Pathway or the Concentration in Africana Studies.

Grading Minimums

Students must earn a grade of C- or above to get AMCS major credit. All courses graded below C- must be retaken in order to be eligible for major credit. Courses must be taken for a grade to be eligible for major credit. Courses for major credit may not be taken CR/NC.

Major Core Requirements: 20 Units

Choose any three (12 units):

AMCS 165A/B Learning Community (C3)	4
AMCS 210 Ethnic Groups in America (D1)	4
AMCS 225 How Racism Works (C2)	4
AMCS 260 Ethnicity in the Arts, Culture, Media (C1)	4

Required (8 units):

AMCS 350 Ethics, Values, and Multiculturalism (C2)	4
AMCS 480 Research Methodology	4

Choose 8 units of Upper Division Electives:

AMCS 260 Ethnicity in the Arts, Culture, and Media (C1)**	4
AMCS 339 Ethnic Groups and American Social Policy (D1)	4
AMCS 355 Language and Ethnicity (C3)	4
AMCS 370 Topics in Ethnic Studies	4
AMCS 374 Multiracial Experience	4
AMCS 377 Asian American Experience (cross-listed WGS370)	3
AMCS 381 Research Assistantship*	2-4
AMCS 385 Facilitation Training*	2-4
AMCS 392 Ethnic Images in Film and Media (C1)	4
AMCS 395 Community Involvement Project*	3-4
AMCS 399 Student Initiated Course*	3-4
AMCS 420 Gender and Ethnicity	4
AMCS 445 Multiculturalism and Education	4
AMCS 475 Globalization and Race in the United States	4
AMCS 476 Topics in African American Studies	4
AMCS 481 Religion and Spirituality in America	4
AMCS 495 Special Studies	
AMCS 499 Service Learning Internship	

**Based on advisor approval. Only one of these courses may count towards the degree.*

***Can count as an elective if not taken as a core course.*

Core Course Requirements	20
Concentration or Pathway	8
Upper Division Electives	16
Total in AMCS Major	44

Concentration in Africana Studies (16 units)

Students who select this option will earn a B.A. in AMCS with a Concentration in Africana Studies. The following courses are eligible towards the concentration. However, students can consult with their advisors and the department chair to request an unlisted course count toward the concentration. At least 8 upper division units are required.

AMCS 225 How Racism Works (C2)	4
AMCS 315 Muhammad Ali and the African American Freedom Struggle (E)#	4
AMCS 360 Ethnic Literature (C2)	4
AMCS 392 Ethnic Images in Film and Media (C1)	4
AMCS 420 Gender and Ethnicity	4
AMCS 476 Topics in African American Studies	4
FR 314 French Caribbean Literature (C2)	4
GEOG 394 Africa South of the Sahara	4
HIST 348 Race and Ethnicity in Latin America	4
HIST 468 Blacks in American History	4
HIST 470 The American South	4
HIST 498 The Civil Rights Movement (C3)	4
SOCI 263 Sociology of Race and Ethnicity (D1)	4

**Can count towards Africana Concentration if not used in the Core*

Under review by GE Sub Committee

Pathways

Students who do not complete the concentration in Africana Studies will select one of the following pathways. The following courses are eligible toward each pathway. However, students can consult with their advisors and the department chair to request an unlisted course count toward the Pathway. All pathways must include at least 8 upper division units. Total units in the Pathway: 16 units.

Pathway in Hemispheric Studies

Any CALS course is eligible for this concentration but check the catalog for pre-requisites. Other eligible courses are:

AMCS 475 Globalization and Race in the U.S.	4
GEOG 392 Geography of Latin America and the Caribbean	4
HIST 339 Ancient and Colonial Latin America	4
HIST 342 Modern Latin America	4
HIST 348 Race and Ethnicity in Latin America	4
HIST 433 History of Mexico	4
HIST 449 Gender and Sexuality in Latin America	4
POLS 453 Politics of Latin America	4

Pathway in Comparative Ethnic Studies

Any CALS, NAMS, or AMCS course is eligible for this concentration. Other eligible courses are:

ANTH 451 Applied Ethnographic Methods*	4
COMS 321 International Communication	4
ENGL 315 California Ethnic Literature	4
HIST 468 Blacks in American History	4
HIST 470 The American South	4
HIST 472 History of California I	4
HIST 473 History of California II	4
HIST 498 The Civil Rights Movement	4
LIBS 204 Minorities in American Cinema	4
PHIL 275 Race, Racism, Law, and Society	4
POLS 330 Race, Ethnicity, and Politics	4
PSY 330 Stereotyping and Prejudice	4
SOCI 263 Sociology of Race and Ethnicity	4
SOCI 347 American Class Structure**	4
WGS 370 Gender in Asian America (cross-listed AMCS 377)	4
WGS 375 Gender, Race, and Class (D1)	4
THAR 375 Race, Gender, and Performance: New Plays, Race, and Sexuality	3
<i>*Must meet pre-requisite</i>	
<i>** Open to SOCI majors and minors only</i>	

Pathway in Film Studies

AMCS 301 Africana Lecture Series	1
AMCS 390 Independent Film Studies	1-2
AMCS 392 Ethnic Images in Film and Media	4
CALS 393 Chicano/Latino Cinema	4
LIBS 204 Minorities in American Cinema	4
LIBS 320C Introduction to Film Studies	4
NAMS 338 Native Americans and the Cinema	4
SOCI 434 Cinema and Society **	4

PSY 490 Psychology of Film	4
PSY 490 Adolescent Development Through Film	4
<i>**Open to SOCI majors/minors only</i>	

Pathway in Critical Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Any WGS course is eligible for this Pathway but check WGS catalog for pre-requisites. Other eligible courses are:

AMCS 420 Gender and Ethnicity	4
CALS 405 The Chicano/Latino Family	4
CCJS 430 Women and Crime	4
ENGL 345 Women Writers	4
ENGL 451 Feminist Perspectives in Literature	4
HIST 345 Women's History and Women's Activism	4
HIST 445 Topics in American Women's History	4
HIST 446 Women in American History	4
HIST 449 Gender and Sexuality in Latin America	4
NURS 480 Health, Sexuality, and Society	4
POLS 313 Critical Theory: Race and Gender	4
POLS 391 Gender and Politics	4
PSY 362 Human Sexuality	4
PSY 405 Psychology of Gender	4
SOCI 360 Sociology of Sexualities**	4
SOCI 312 Sociology of Gender**	4
THAR 375 Race, Gender, and Performance: New Plays, Race, and Sexuality	3
WGS 385 Gender and Globalization	3-4
<i>** Open to SOCI majors/minors only</i>	

Pathway in Native American Studies

Any NAMS course is eligible for this concentration. Other eligible courses are:

ANTH 327: Archaeology of North America*	4
<i>*must meet pre-requisite</i>	

Pathway in Literature and Art

AMCS 360 Ethnic Literature	4
AMCS 392 Ethnic Images in Film and Media	4
ARTH 460 History of American Art	4
ARTH 470A South and Southeast Asian Art	4
ARTH 470B Chinese and Japanese Asian Art	4
ARTH 474 Islamic Art	4
CALS 220 Chicano/Latino Arts and Literature	4
CALS 314 Latin American Literature in English Translation	4
CALS 374 Latino Literature	4
CALS 450 Latina/o Children's Literature	4
CALS 474 Major Authors in Latino Literature	4
ENGL 315 California Ethnic Literature	4
ENGL 482 Studies in American Literature: Jewish Literature – Home and Exile	4
ENGL 436 Studies in Postcolonial Literature	4
FR 314 French Caribbean Literature	4
NAMS 354 Native American Literatures	4
THAR 375 Race, Gender, and Performance: New Plays, Race, and Sexuality	3

Pathway in Multicultural Education:

AMCS 355 Language and Ethnicity (C3)	4
AMCS 360 Ethnic Literature (C2)	4
AMCS 445 Multiculturalism and Education	4
CALS 374 Latino Literature (C2)	4
CALS 403 Chicano/Latino Youth and Adolescents (C2)	4
HIST 468 Blacks in American History	4
EDUC 250 Teaching in a Changing World	3
EDUC 417 School and Society (D1)*	3
EDEC 420 Child Development in Family, School and Community (E)*	3
EDMS 470 Multicultural Pedagogy	3
EDSS 418 Learning and Development in Adolescents	3
EDSP 433 Teaching Adolescents with Special Needs	3

*Meets pre-requisite for the Multiple Subject Credential program

Minor in American Multicultural Studies

Students must complete 20 units to fulfill requirements for a minor in American Multicultural Studies. Courses graded CR/NC are not applicable to minors awarded by the AMCS Department. Students must receive grades of C- or better to receive minor credit for courses.

Core requirements (Choose up to three courses (12 units) from the following)

AMCS 165A/B Learning Community (C3)	4
AMCS 210 Ethnic Groups in America (D1)	4
AMCS 225 How Racism Works (C2)	4
AMCS 260 Ethnicity in the Arts, Culture, and Media (C1)	4

Required

AMCS 350 Ethics, Values, and Multiculturalism (C2)	4
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Elective

Additional four (4) units must come from upper-division AMCS courses. Courses taken from CALS, NAMS, or WGS can count towards the minor elective based on advisor approval.

Total units in the minor 20

Sample Four-Year Program for Bachelor of Arts in American Studies, Pathway in Comparative Ethnic Studies

FRESHMAN YEAR	
<i>Fall Semester</i>	<i>Spring Semester</i>
AMCS 160A (A3)	AMCS 160B (C3)
GE Area B	AMCS 210 (D1) or SOCI 263 (D1)
ENGL 101 (A2)	GE AREA B
GE Area D4	GE Area D2 or D3
SOPHOMORE YEAR	
<i>Fall Semester</i>	<i>Spring Semester</i>
GE Area B	CALS 403 (E)
GE Area D2 or D3	AMCS 350 (C2)
AMCS 260 (C1)	CALS 432 (D5)
UD major course (any)	UD major course (any)
JUNIOR YEAR	
<i>Fall Semester</i>	<i>Spring Semester</i>
GE Area B	Any UD SSU course
UD major course (any)	Any UD SSU course
UD major course (any)	Any SSU course
AMCS 480	Any SSU course
SENIOR YEAR	
<i>Fall Semester</i>	<i>Spring Semester</i>
Any SSU course	Any SSU course
Any SSU course	Any SSU course
Any SSU course	Any SSU course
Any SSU course	Any SSU course
TOTAL UNITS: 120	