

AMERICAN MULTICULTURAL STUDIES

DEPARTMENT OFFICE

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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

American Multicultural Studies (AMCS) is devoted to the interdisciplinary study of ethnic and racial minority groups in the United States. A variety of courses focus on the historical, sociological, cultural, and ideological aspects of American ethnicity.

The program is designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills they will need to meet the ongoing challenge of living in a culturally and ethnically diverse society. AMCS students receive basic instruction in how to recognize and engage the underlying assumptions that guide our thinking about race, ethnicity, and multiculturalism. They will explore arts and literature, language, and philosophy. Additionally, they will examine historical, political, social, educational, economic, and cultural developments that affect ethnic and racial minority communities in the United States.

Through a critical study of the significance of the constructions of ethnicity and race in shaping social relationships in the United States, AMCS students are introduced to modes of intercultural learning and understanding that help them to develop the knowledge and sensitivities needed for the enhancement of multicultural competence and communication. By examining the arts, literature, language, and philosophy of ethnic groups, students learn to appreciate the moral and aesthetic values of others. Moreover, through an interdisciplinary approach, they come to a clearer view of the

historical importance of ethnic identity in America and to a deeper understanding of the impact ethnic groups have had on America generally, and on social policy, practice, and institutions. Course offerings include studies of race and ethnicity in the U.S. in the age of globalization.

Careers in American Multicultural Studies

AMCS offers a pathway to the teacher credentialing program. Students must begin this path during their first or second semester of their freshman year and consult with a faculty advisor in order to ensure that the program requirements can be fulfilled in the appropriate time frame. The faculty advisor to this pathway coordinates with the School of Education and provides guidance to the students so they are prepared and qualified to apply to the teacher credential program after they finish their AMCS degree. They will have the preparation needed to instruct and mentor an increasingly diverse student population.

The major prepares individuals to function effectively in the fields of education, personnel administration, business, law, human resources, public health, public relations, social services, and environmental planning. It provides a sound foundation for graduate work in many traditional disciplines and in emerging multidisciplinary fields of inquiry. The Department of American Multicultural Studies, through its major and minor, has the following goals:

- To equip students with the knowledge, skills, and sensitivity to function effectively in a culturally diverse society;
- To provide knowledge of the contributions that ethnic and racial minorities have made to American society and culture;
- To make students sensitive and aware of the problems and issues facing ethnic and racial minorities;
- To develop within students an appreciation of the richness and diversity of ethnic arts and humanities;
- To develop students' skills in research methods, computer applications, and basic social statistics, thereby enabling students to analyze the problems and issues facing ethnic and racial minorities;
- To develop students' skills in communication, particularly in intercultural settings, and to demonstrate the application of these skills as tools in research, in pedagogy, and in real-life situations;
- To develop a diverse pool of teachers to meet the needs of an increasingly multicultural student population;
- To provide students with research, community internship, and editing/teaching facilitation opportunities focused on ethnic studies, multicultural education, and multicultural studies;

- To provide the expertise in areas that will allow students to pursue professional and graduate training so they can serve diverse communities, act as a bridge between different cultural groups, and affect constructive social change; and
- To develop students' understanding of issues of race and ethnicity in the U.S. in the age of globalization.

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 courses that are equivalent to those offered within AMCS, CALS, or NAMS at Sonoma State University. A maximum of ten lower-division units may be transferred toward the AMCS major. Upper-division courses from four-year institutions may be transferred above and beyond the ten units of lower-division transfer toward the AMCS major, based on advisor approval. Students should use www.assist.org to view official articulation agreements between SSU and other California colleges.

| Degree Requirements | Units |
|--|--------------|
| General education | 50 |
| Major core requirements | 19 |
| Major electives | 19 |
| General electives | 32 |
| Total units needed for graduation | 120 |

Students graduating with a B.A. in American Multicultural Studies must take a minimum of 36 units within AMCS or supporting courses from CALS, NAMS, or related course work in other departments in order to fulfill the requirements of the major. The majority of the courses must be fulfilled within AMCS. Please see the course catalog description for any prerequisites and fulfillment requirements.

Major Core Requirements

Complete the Following 17 Units:

| | |
|---|---|
| AMCS 210 Ethnic Groups in America | 4 |
| AMCS 255 Ethnicity in the Humanities | 4 |
| AMCS 350 Ethics, Values, and Multiculturalism | 4 |
| AMCS 395 Community Involvement Program (CIP) | 3 |
| AMCS 480 Research and Methodology | 4 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Total Units In the Major Core | 19 |
| Total Elective Units | 19 |
| Total Major | 38 |

CIP/Service Learning

Students are required to complete at least 3 units of credit by being involved in a Community Involvement Program (CIP) or service-learning opportunity. Departmental CIP advisors can provide information to students about service-learning opportunities. Departmental CIP policy is as follows:

1. Students will do 30 hours of community service per unit received. Students may count a maximum of 4 units of CIP credit toward the AMCS major.
2. CIP advisors will request that students get a letter (on official letterhead) from their supervisors indicating their duties and the amount of time worked.
3. Students will submit a journal or a paper, two double-spaced pages per unit of CIP credit received, describing their experiences as a CIP volunteer.
4. Students are expected to keep a log of the dates and times they worked.
5. CIP advisor can give additional assignments if necessary.

Major Electives and Repeated Courses

Any course within AMCS may serve as an elective course. Students may count one class (up to 4 units) of AMCS 399: Student Instructed Course for major elective credit. Students may repeat courses such as AMCS 470 and AMCS 476 for major elective credit provided that the subject matter varies. Students should check with their advisors or the department chair if they have questions.

Optional Courses in Related Fields and Departments

A maximum of three classes (up to 12 units) may come from outside AMCS to fulfill the unit requirement of the major. These courses may be taken from CALS, NAMS, WGS, or other departments and programs at Sonoma State University upon consent of the faculty major advisor. Courses in CALS, NAMS, and other academic programs and departments may be considered for elective credit for the degree upon consent of the major advisor, especially for those students pursuing a double major.

Lower-Division Units

A maximum of twelve (12) lower-division units may be used toward the AMCS major.

Grading Minimums

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

Sample Four-Year Program for Bachelor of Arts in AMCS

| FRESHMAN YEAR: 30 Units | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Fall Semester (15 Units)</i> | <i>Spring Semester (15 Units)</i> |
| ENGL 101 (GE A2) (4) | AMCS 260 (GE C1) (4) |
| AMCS 225 (GE C2) (4) | PHIL 101 (GE A3) (4) |
| GE Electives (7) | GE Electives (7) |
| SOPHOMORE YEAR: 30 Units | |
| <i>Fall Semester (15 Units)</i> | <i>Spring Semester (15 Units)</i> |
| AMCS 210 (GE D1) (4) | GE Electives (7) |
| GE Elective (3) | Electives (8) |
| Electives (8) | |
| JUNIOR YEAR: 30-31 Units | |
| <i>Fall Semester (15 Units)</i> | <i>Spring Semester (15-16 Units)</i> |
| AMCS 350 (C2) (4) | AMCS 480 or CALS 458 (4) |
| GE Electives (7) | AMCS 395 (3-4) |
| AMCS Elective (4) | AMCS Electives (8) |
| SENIOR YEAR: 30 Units | |
| <i>Fall Semester (15 Units)</i> | <i>Spring Semester (15 Units)</i> |
| AMCS Electives (15) | AMCS Elective (4) |
| | Electives (11) |
| TOTAL SEMESTER UNITS: 120-121 | |

Integrated Program Bachelor of Arts / Teaching Certification in AMCS

For admission into the program, please see requirements for admission into the major.

| Degree Requirements | Units |
|--|------------|
| General education | 50 |
| Major requirements | 38 |
| Education classes | 33 |
| Total units needed for graduation | 121 |

The Integrated B.A./Credential Program is very unit-intensive. This program may only be completed by students who begin the program during their first or second semester of their freshman year. Students are required to consult with a faculty advisor during their freshman year in order to ensure that the program requirements can be fulfilled in the appropriate time frame. Students must also pass the CBEST/CSET exam in order to gain admission to the credential program.

Sample Four-Year Program for Pre-Credential Track for Elementary (Multiple Subjects) Teaching Program

| FRESHMAN YEAR: 30 Units | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Fall Semester (14 Units)</i> | <i>Spring Semester (16 Units)</i> |
| ENGL 101 (GE A2) (4) | AMCS 260 (GE C1) (4) |
| MATH 150 (GE B4) (3) | PHIL 101 (GE A3) (4) |
| CHEM, PHYS, or ASTR (GE B1) (3) | BIOL 110 (GE B2) (4) |
| AMCS 210 (GE D1) (4) | EDUC 250 (3) |
| | AMCS 395 or EDUC 295 (1) |
| SOPHOMORE YEAR: 29 Units | |
| <i>Fall Semester (14 Units)</i> | <i>Spring Semester (15 Units)</i> |
| AMCS 350 (GE C2) (4) | HIST 251 (GE D3) (3) |
| GEOL 110 (GE B3) (3) | ARTH, THAR, or MUS (GE C1) (3) |
| MATH 300A (3) | POLS 200 (GE D4) (3) |
| HIST 201 (GE D2) (3) | AMCS 392 (GE C1) (4) |
| AMCS 395 or EDUC 295 (1) | AMCS 395 or EDUC 295 (2) |
| JUNIOR YEAR: 32 Units | |
| <i>Fall Semester (17 Units)</i> | <i>Spring Semester (15 Units)</i> |
| AMCS 445 (4) | KINS 400 (3) |
| MATH 300B (3) | AMCS 360 (GEC2) (4) |
| EDEC 420 (GE E) (3)* | AMCS 431 (4) |
| AMCS Elective (4) | Elective (4) |
| Elective (3) | |
| SUMMER | |
| Take the CSET: Multiple Subjects Exam the summer after Junior year | |
| SENIOR YEAR: 30 Units | |
| <i>Fall Semester (14 Units)</i> | <i>Spring Semester (16 Units)</i> |
| AMCS 480 (4) | AMCS Elective (4) |
| EDUC 417 (GE D1) (3)* | Electives (12) |
| EDMS 470 (3)** | |
| Elective (4) | |
| Apply for Credential Program Fall of Senior year | |
| TOTAL UNITS: 121 | |
| * Pre-requisite for the Multiple Subjects Credential Program | |
| ** Co-requisite for the Multiple Subjects Credential Program | |

Notes

- The AMCS Multiple Subjects Pre-Credential Track is designed to provide students with the qualifications to apply to the Elementary (i.e. Multiple Subjects) Teaching Credential Program.

2. Multiple Subject candidates must provide verification that they have passed or have registered to take the CSET: Multiple Subjects (3 subtests) plus Writing section exam with their application to the credential program. The written requirement is met if you have passed the CBEST exam.
3. AMCS 445 may substitute for EDMS 470. Talk with your advisor for details.

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:

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|---|---|
| AMCS 210 Ethnic Groups in America | 4 |
| AMCS 255 Ethnicity in the Humanities | 4 |
| AMCS 350 Ethics, Values, and Multiculturalism | 4 |

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| Total Units in the Minor Core | 12 |
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|------------------------|-----------|
| Minor Electives | 12 |
|------------------------|-----------|

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|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Total Units in the Minor | 24 |
|---------------------------------|-----------|