

# AMERICAN STUDIES

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## College of Letters & Science

Grace Wang, Interim Vice Chair of the Department

## Department Office

1200 Hart Hall; 530-752-6429; American Studies (<http://ams.ucdavis.edu/>); Faculty (<http://ams.ucdavis.edu/faculty/>)

## The Department

The Department of American Studies approaches the “American” in our field’s name as an important and complicated idea that comes with a range of feelings (from joy to fear to pride to sadness). American Studies explores the cultures of the United States, as well as their transnational exchanges and impact. In American Studies classes, students let their curiosities guide them through the process of analyzing pieces of American culture, including food, nature, childhood, and more, through the lenses of race, class, gender, and disability. American Studies is a place for students who want to know why things are the way they are and how they could be.

American Studies takes an interdisciplinary approach, answering research questions with tools from history, sociology, anthropology, literary criticism, media studies, and science and technology studies. American Studies majors are good critical thinkers, develop excellent writing and communication skills, and most importantly, “learn how to learn”—that is, they learn to figure out what intellectual tools and specialized knowledge they will need to perform a task or solve a problem.

- American Studies, Bachelor of Arts (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/departments-programs-degrees/american-studies/american-studies-ab/>)
- American Studies, Minor (<https://catalog.ucdavis.edu/departments-programs-degrees/american-studies/american-studies-minor/>)