



# IUPUI



## IU SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

# AMERICAN STUDIES

*As diverse as America.*

The diversity of American society and culture is greater than can be contained in any single perspective or university department, and serious academic attempts to understand America require a multi-disciplinary approach.

The American Studies Program at IUPUI necessarily draws on a broad range of departments and course offerings as it invites students to invent their own ways of making sense of America. Some students may emphasize historical, sociological, or economic factors in exploring the American experience, while others may draw on philosophical, literary, or artistic resources to interpret some aspect of America.

Because of the multi-disciplinary nature of American studies, it complements a variety of majors. It adds focus and contrast to a major in English, history, religious studies, political science, or philosophy by picking out the American strains and distinguishing them from other influences. The program provides additional context and depth to a major in journalism, sociology, economics, anthropology, communication studies, or geography by suggesting applications of skills and theories in an American setting. American studies can also enrich language studies through considerations of identity and community in a land of rich native cultures, adventurers, conquerors, immigrants, slaves, and freedom seekers from around the world.

### SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

The American Studies Program at IUPUI enjoys close relationships with two research centers that offer interested and motivated students special opportunities for examining American culture. The Center for Ray Bradbury Studies includes correspondence, manuscripts, and a complete library of published works by this prolific author, playwright, essayist, and critic who has both studied and influenced American culture in the twentieth century and beyond. The Max Kade German-American Center is dedicated to examining the experience of German immigrants in America and the German heritage of Indianapolis. Through lectures, publications, and fellowships, the center promotes inquiry into the German influence in American culture.

Distance can give a different perspective on one's own culture, and the American Studies Program at IUPUI provides opportunities for students to see themselves in a new way with two overseas exchange programs: one with the nationally-recognized American studies department at University of Derby, UK, and another with the history department at Newcastle University, UK.

### THE FUTURE

An American studies background can be helpful in business, journalism, government, the military, education, law, and any field sensitive to cultural context. Any endeavor that requires an ability to synthesize broad ideas and understand oneself in a dynamic historical context would benefit from the intellectual experience available in American studies.

American studies can benefit those applying to graduate school, law school, and other professional programs such as journalism because it indicates a willingness to seek connections across disciplinary lines and a curiosity about what many of us take for granted—our American society and culture. A minor in American studies offers undergraduates an opportunity to work closely with a professor and demonstrate the initiative required to develop a suitable course of study; both experiences can be key to success in professional or graduate school.

### CONTACT US

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<http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/iat/Pages/AcademicPrograms/AmericanStudies.htm>

### THE MINOR

An American studies minor requires 15 credit hours of upper-level course work, including the senior tutorial. As a prerequisite, students must complete History H105 and H106 or provide evidence of knowledge of a general outline of the history of the United States; however, these courses do not count toward minor credit.

Two courses, A301: The Question of American Identity and A302: The Question of American Community, are required of all minors. These courses provide underpinnings for the remaining course work, while the culmination of the American studies minor is the senior tutorial. This course aims to synthesize previous work and the student's particular interests in American studies while offering the student an opportunity to do in-depth research under the guidance of an American studies faculty member.

Complete the following courses with a grade of C or better:

- o A301: The Question of American Identity (3 credit hours)
- o A302: The Question of American Community (3 credit hours)
- o Two additional courses at the 300 or 400 level offered under the American studies rubric, or courses from other departments that are cross listed in American Studies (2 courses/6 credit hours)
- o A499: Senior Tutorial (3 credit hours)

A student's minor program will be developed in consultation with American studies faculty members and the student's American studies advisor.

To declare the minor contact the faculty advisor for American studies.

*American studies 300-level courses fulfill Area III requirements for courses outside of a student's major. Be aware that School of Liberal Arts rules prohibit a student from counting the same course toward both a major and a minor.*

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## FACULTY

*Director and Advisor*

**Martin Coleman**, Philosophy  
(Ph. D. Southern Illinois University, Carbondale)  
American Philosophy

*Professors*

**David Bodenhamer**, History (Ph.D. Indiana University) Anglo-American legal and constitutional history, history of criminal justice and criminal law, nineteenth-century United States, and urban studies

**Jonathan Eller**, English (Ph.D. Indiana University) American literature, literature and science, textual studies with an emphasis on the work of Ray Bradbury, and the history of publishing

**Carol Brooks Gardner**, Sociology  
(Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania) Sociology of everyday life, gender and family, current qualitative sociological theory and methods, disability

**Sara Anne Hook**, School of Informatics  
(J.D. Indiana University School of Law - Indianapolis) Application of intellectual property law to informatics and the emerging field of legal informatics

**Nathan Houser**, Philosophy (Ph.D. University of Waterloo (Canada)) American thought, pragmatism, thought of C. S. Peirce, formal semiotics, history of logic

**Missy Dehn Kubitschek**, English  
(Ph.D. University of Illinois) African-American literature, women's fiction, British Victorian fiction, and multicultural American literature

**John R. McKivigan**, History (Ph.D. Ohio State University) Nineteenth-century U.S. history (the Antebellum, Civil War and Reconstruction eras), American reform movements, and American ethnic history, American labor history

**Jane Schultz**, English (Ph.D. University of Michigan) Nineteenth-century American literature and culture, literature and medicine, American domestic fiction, historical narrative, Civil War literature, and gender studies

**William Touponce**, English (Ph.D. University of Massachusetts) Textual theory and textual criticism, semiotics, fantasy and science fiction, children's literature

**Marianne S. Woceck**, History (Ph.D. Temple University) American history, colonial and Revolutionary history, history of the Atlantic world 1500-1800, immigration and ethnicity, and women's history, scholarly editing

*Associate Professors*

**Annie G. Coleman**, History (Ph.D. University of Colorado) Twentieth-century American West, twentieth-century popular culture, and environmental history

**Edward E. Curtis IV**, Religious Studies  
(D.Litt. et Phil. University of South Africa)  
Religion, race, and ethnicity; African American history and religion; Islamic studies; modern Middle East

**Owen Dwyer**, Geography (Ph.D. University of Kentucky) Public space and collective memory, urban cultural landscapes, race and racism, American Civil Rights Movement

**Philip K. Goff**, Religious Studies  
(Ph.D. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)  
American Religious History

**Karen R. Johnson**, English (Ph.D. Emory University) Twentieth- and twenty-first-century American literature, Southern literature, postcolonial literature, literature of South Africa and India, literature in social and historical context

**Thomas Marvin**, English (Ph.D. University of Massachusetts) American literature, African-American literature, American Studies

**Nancy Robertson**, History (Ph.D. New York University) U.S. history; late nineteenth and twentieth centuries; American philanthropy; women; religion; U.S. race relations; women and banking; and history of U.S. citizenship

**Susan Shepherd**, English (Ph.D. Stanford University) Sociolinguistics; language and oppression, especially Black English, American Sign Language, pidgins and creoles, and issues of gender; language and culture; child language acquisition; the history of English

**Peter J. Thuesen**, Religious Studies  
(Ph.D. Princeton University) United States religious history, the Bible in American culture, history of Christian thought since the Reformation, history of the book in colonial British America, race and religion in American history

*Assistant Professors*

**Jason Kelly**, History (Ph.D. University of California, Santa Barbara) Eighteenth-century British history, history of archaeology and anthropology, history of art, history of masculinity, historiography and theory

**Rachel Wheeler**, Religious Studies (Ph.D. Yale University) American religious history, colonial American history, Native American religions

*Lecturer*

**John Gosney** (M.A. Butler University)  
Twentieth-century American literature, literature and criticism of rock music, alternate reality gaming, technology and pedagogy

*Emeritus Faculty*

**Ralph D. Gray** (Ph.D. University of Illinois)  
American history, early nineteenth century transportation history, Indiana history, and history of IUPUI

**Paul Nagy** (Ph.D. Fordham University) Ethics, American philosophy, pragmatism, question of American identity, America in the 1960s and 1970s, John Dewey, Michael Polanyi, and pragmatism and American culture

**Melvin L. Plotinsky** (Ph.D. Harvard University)  
Shakespeare, Milton, twentieth-century British and American literature, American Jewish writers, creative writing, and literary criticism

**Jan B. Shippis** (Ph.D. University of Colorado)  
History of American religion, religions in the making, religion in urban America, and Mormonism