



UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM

Master's in History

American Studies

uva.nl/ma-american-studies

Dr George Blaustein



'Students come to American Studies from many backgrounds, making ours a lively community. And there might be no more interesting moment than right now to be an Americanist outside the US.'

'America' is a myth as much as a concrete reality. In this Master's programme, you will study the United States – from both inside and outside – historically and with an eye toward the present. You will explore politics and foreign policy, but also the culture that has influenced, and reflected, the world.

The Master's in American Studies casts a very broad net: literature, mass media, film, photography, music, alongside traditional documents of political history. That net is cast well beyond the United States, too, gathering international perspectives on America and American perspectives on the broader world.

American Studies is an interdisciplinary programme based in the history department. Students come from a wide range of backgrounds and write original theses on subjects of their own choosing. The study programme is research- and writing-intensive. To write a thesis is to become part of a community of scholars. 'What is American Studies?' has no single answer, because every student must answer it anew.

Career prospects

The United States looms disproportionately large in contemporary life and media. The Master's in American Studies offers insight into the world we live in and the world that will confront graduates in their future careers. As a graduate, you will gain vital skills related to research, writing and argumentation and a critical understanding of the country's past and present, developing the ability to link academic knowledge to the contemporary world. The deep knowledge of the US you acquire will be a strong currency in a global age.



Spotlight on a course

America inside out

This seminar explores foreign perspectives of the United States: prose, poetry, music and visual arts from many regions, illuminating hitherto unseen dimensions of American culture and the impact of the U.S. abroad. The United States could be the “land of the future,” the 20th-century archetype of youth and modernity that lent itself to both critique and admiration from outside observers. But it was also a site of imagined backwardness, reaction, age, or imperial decline. You are encouraged to approach American culture and society from a new angle.

Entry requirements

American Studies is an interdisciplinary pursuit: we welcome students who have studied history, English, media studies, literary studies, sociology, anthropology, cultural studies, political science, European studies, art history, communication science, and more. The main prerequisite is that you have devoted a significant portion of your undergraduate work to American Studies, even if it was not in a named 'American Studies' programme. If you have obtained 30 ECTS credits worth of courses related to American history, society, culture, literature, media, or politics, or if you have followed a minor in American Studies during your Bachelor's, you are eligible to apply. History students who have followed the American Studies track, or have focused their studies on the history of the United States, qualify automatically for admission.

For more information, please check:

uva.nl/ma-american-studies

> [Application and admission](#)

Key data

Degree

Master of Arts
in History

Duration

1 year / 60 ECTS

Mode

Full-time / Part-time

Start

1 September

Language of instruction

English

CROHO

66034

Contact

Faculty of Humanities

Admissions Office

T: +31 (0)20 525 4481

E: admissionsma-fgw@uva.nl