

2007

**Mission**

The mission of the American Studies Program is to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the multiple voices and visions that interpret and, in turn, shape the diversity of the American experience throughout history. Such knowledge is an integral part of the education promised by the college's mission statement; it also prepares students for leadership in U.S. society, and in an increasingly transnational world.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

**Goal 1:** To engage fellow students, from different racial, cultural, and class backgrounds, in meaningful dialogue about problems in American society.

Outcome 1: Students can develop conceptual knowledge about intergroup relations and hone intergroup communication skills, with a special emphasis on conflict.

Outcome 2: Students can demonstrate an ability to communicate across the lines of difference in American society.

**Goal 2:** To gain an appreciation of major aspects of American cultural life in multiple perspectives.

Outcome 3: Students can describe the most important issues and interpretive debates in U.S. history.

Outcome 4: Students can analyze the central thematic and theoretical concerns in American literature.

**Goal 3:** To acquire solid grounding and training in the interdisciplinary approach of American studies, its theoretical frameworks, and research methods.

Outcome 5: Students can demonstrate a command of the interdisciplinary origins and development of American Studies.

Outcome 6: Students can apply their knowledge of central works of American Studies to research and writing projects of their own.

**Goal 4:** To have an informed perspective on the U.S. as a transnational actor in world affairs.

Outcome 7: Students can relate trends and issues in the U.S. to parallel developments in other countries and apply an informed perspective on the modern history of the U.S. role in the world to contemporary international conflicts.

Outcome 8: Students can demonstrate knowledge of the reciprocal relationships between the U.S. and the other cultures whose members have migrated to the U.S.