Master of Arts in American Studies
Emphasizing the interdisciplinary study of American society and culture, coursework and hands-on experiences provide students with the knowledge and analytical skills to thrive in educational institutions, governmental and public policy agencies, museums, cultural organizations, archives, communications venues and doctoral programs. Many students have enhanced their careers in secondary education or museums by obtaining a master’s degree at Penn State Harrisburg.

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Program Website: https://harrisburg.psu.edu/amstudies
Curriculum
Degree Requirements
The student is required to take a minimum of 30 credits in American Studies, including at least 18 credits in the 500 series; AM ST 500, 591, and AM ST 580 or 600 are required. AM ST 500 should be taken within the first two semesters of study; AM ST 591 should be taken in the last two semesters of study. Usually in the last semester, students are required to complete their program with a major paper by taking AM ST 580 or thesis in which case AM ST 600 is taken. The choice of AM ST 580 to fulfill graduation requirements is for an original scholarly master’s paper or project. One to 6 credits in AM ST 580 can be earned; the typical number of credits for the culminating project is three. The choice of AM ST 600 is for a thesis and is taken for 6 credits. The thesis must follow the guidelines established by the Graduate School. (See http://www.gradsch.psu.edu/current/thesis.html)

Testimonials
Since 2007, I have worked as an independent folklorist. My contract fieldwork in Texas and beyond is broad based: oral histories, documentary photography, publications, exhibits, community programs. Following graduate school with coursework in folklore, material culture, and public heritage, I served in supervisory positions as a public sector folklorist working with traditional artists coast to coast. Besides being involved in exhibition and festival work, I was the author of several publications growing out of field surveys, such as From Heart to Hand: Folk & Traditional Arts of Pennsylvania’s Northern Tier; Mid Atlantic Folk Arts Outreach Project; and From Bridge to Boardwalk: An Audio Journey Across Maryland’s Eastern Shore.

Courses Overview
- AM ST 500 THEORY AND METHODS (3)
- AM ST 502 PROBLEMS IN AMERICAN STUDIES (3-6)
- AM ST 510 U.S. LITERATURE AND CULTURE (3)
- AM ST 511 PIVOTAL BOOKS (3-9)
- AM ST 520 TOPICS IN POPULAR CULTURE (3)
- AM ST 530 TOPICS IN AMERICAN FOLKLORE (3)
- AM ST 531 MATERIAL CULTURE AND FOLKLIFE (3)
- AM ST 533 AMERICAN CIVILIZATION IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY (3-9)
- AM ST 534 AMERICAN CIVILIZATION IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY (3-9)
- AM ST 535 AMERICAN CIVILIZATION IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY (3-9)
- AM ST 536 AMERICAN CIVILIZATION IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY (3)
- AM ST 540 ETHNOGRAPHY AND SOCIETY (3)
- AM ST 550 SEMINAR IN PUBLIC HERITAGE (3)
- Prerequisite: AM ST 482
- AM ST 551 SEMINAR IN LOCAL AND REGIONAL STUDIES (3)
- AM ST 560 SEMINAR IN RACE AND ETHNICITY (3)
- AM ST 561 SEMINAR IN GENDER AND CULTURE (3)
- AM ST 570 TOPICS IN AMERICAN ART (1-6)
- AM ST 575 MUSEUM INTERNSHIP (3)
- AM ST 579 READING IN AMERICAN STUDIES (3-9)
- AM ST 580 PROJECTS IN AMERICAN STUDIES (1-6)
- AM ST 590 COLLOQUIUM (1-3)
- AM ST 591 SEMINAR IN AMERICAN STUDIES (3)
- Prerequisite: AM ST 500
- AM ST 592 FIELD EXPERIENCE IN AMERICAN STUDIES (3)
- Prerequisite: AM ST 500
- AM ST 594 RESEARCH TOPICS (1-15)
- AM ST 595 INTERNSHIP (1-18)
- AM ST 596 INDIVIDUAL STUDIES (1-9)
- AM ST 597 SPECIAL TOPICS (1-9)

Program Requirements for Admission

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<th>Requirements</th>
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<tr>
<td>GPA</td>
<td>Minimum of 2.75 junior/senior grade-point average on a 4.00 scale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>The graduate program in American Studies accepts students from a wide array of disciplines — art, history, English, sociology, and anthropology — but recommends educational preparation related to the interdisciplinary study of American culture.</td>
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<td>Supporting Materials</td>
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<td>✓ Two letters of recommendation from individuals who can attest to the student's ability to handle graduate study</td>
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<td>✓ A statement of intent (approx. 1,000 words outlining their preparation for study, proposed fields of study, and career goals)</td>
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<td>✓ A sample of written work (seminar paper or equivalent research paper) as evidence of their American research and writing skills.</td>
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<td>✓ Students applying for scholarships and assistantships are requested to submit general examination scores of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) taken within five years previous to the date of application. The GRE is recommended, but not required, for admission.</td>
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Application Deadline

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<th>Semester</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>February 15</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
<td>October 15</td>
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