

AMERICAN CULTURE STUDIES



Interdisciplinary Program Master of Arts College of Arts and Sciences

Introduction

The interdisciplinary MA program in American Culture Studies is designed around the concept of culture, which serves to unify study of the many discrete aspects of our historical, social, intellectual, and artistic heritage. The program invites students to explore particular themes, issues, and periods from an interdisciplinary perspective.

This program offers a foundation in the study of American culture for students with a variety of interests or goals. Primarily, we seek to communicate a sense of the complexity and diversity of our national culture based upon a systematic analysis of its elements. This approach is relevant equally to students who might pursue a career in education in some aspect of American culture; those who might engage in such professions as journalism, public relations, advertising, government, marketing, etc., where a knowledge of American culture is important; or those seeking enrichment of their understanding of American culture. While the American Culture Studies component of the curriculum assures a common experience in culture study, the remainder of the courses are selected from traditional disciplines to allow an individualized educational experience.

Institute for the Study of Culture & Society

The American Culture Studies MA Program is closely affiliated with the Institute for the Study of Culture and Society, a research center on the BGSU campus whose primary goal is to promote scholarly and creative projects in the humanities and arts, as well as related areas of humanistic inquiry in the social sciences and education. The Institute provides our graduate students unique opportunities to work collaboratively with faculty and other students in a variety of academic research settings.

Prerequisites for Graduate Work

Normally the student undertaking graduate work in American Culture Studies will present an undergraduate degree in one of the disciplines represented in the program. Other qualifications will be evaluated on an individual basis. Applicants are encouraged to visit the campus for an interview whenever possible.

Application for Admission

The following materials must be submitted to the BGSU Graduate College: (a) the completed Graduate College Application for Admission form—available online at: <http://www.bgsu.edu/colleges/gradcol/admissions1.htm> (b) two official transcripts from each college or university you have attended, (c) scores for the General Test of the Graduate Record Examination. Foreign students are required to pass the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) examination or its equivalent.

The following materials must be submitted to the American Culture Studies program office in support of his/her application: (a) three letters of recommendation from current or former instructors or other persons qualified to evaluate probable success in the MA program; (b) evidence of ability to conduct academic research in an interdisciplinary setting, such as copies of undergraduate research papers; (c) a two-four page statement of purpose delineating the applicant's purpose for taking the MA as well as an outline of career goals, both short- and long-range; (d) a current one-two page resume or cv; (e) an American Culture Studies MA Applicant Information Form—available online at:

<http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/acs/apply.htm>

All non-American (international) applications must be processed through the BGSU Center for International Programs, which may be reached at the following web address:

<http://international.bgsu.edu/>

Bowling Green State University
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403-0237

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Financial Aid

Financial aid is available to qualified students in American Culture Studies in the form of Graduate Assistantships in teaching, research, or administration. Graduate Assistantships at the MA level normally offer an academic year stipend of about \$8,400 plus waiver of tuition and fees. This aid is available for one year for students pursuing the Plan II comprehensive examination option and for up to two years for students pursuing the Plan I thesis option.

Deadline

Applications and supporting materials should be received by February 1 to receive fullest consideration for admission and funding. Later applications will be considered if positions are available.

Requirements For the Master's Degree

Individual programs are designed in consultation with the Graduate Coordinator and based upon a combination of courses in American Culture Studies and in related fields according to the interests, needs, and background of the student, his/her future plans and goals, and the interdisciplinary philosophy of the program. Thirty-three semester hours are required for the degree, including the required seminar in ACS 630- Methods and Theories of American Culture Studies. The remaining hours are selected from appropriate courses in American Culture Studies, Art History, Communication Studies, English, Ethnic Studies, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Popular Culture, Sociology, Telecommunications, Theatre, Women's Studies, and other related fields. No more than fifteen hours should be taken in a single department or program other than American Culture Studies.

Professional Non-Academic Training

The American Culture Studies MA Program offers courses aimed at preparing students for professional non-academic careers in such ACS-related fields as museum curatorship, historical preservation, and library archival management. These courses, along with

opportunities for participating in professional development internships at local institutions as part of the student's graduate program, are meant to offer a range of professional options for students entering the MA program.

PLAN I: Thesis Option

The candidate must write an interdisciplinary thesis in keeping with the philosophy of the program. Under Plan I, students complete 30 hours of course work and receive three hours of credit for the accepted thesis for a total of 33 semester hours. For most students, completion of the Plan I option requires two years of full-time study in the American Culture Studies MA program.

PLAN II: Comprehensive Exam Option

The basic requirements are the same as Plan I, except 33 hours of course work are required. After the completion of one year of full-time coursework, the student electing Plan II will sit for a four-hour written examination, covering periods in American cultural history, the student's course work, the relationship of American Culture Studies to the traditional disciplines, American Culture Studies methodology, and important themes in American culture. The examination will be based upon each student's individual course of study. The exam is normally taken in July of each year. The Plan II option normally requires one year of full-time study in the American Culture Studies MA program.

Further Information

For further information concerning the program in American Culture Studies, visit: <http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/acs/>

Or contact:

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