



American Studies Honors Track

The American Studies Honors Program is designed to allow our most talented and motivated students more opportunities for in-depth exploration of our interdisciplinary field. These opportunities include independent studies with professors, graduate courses upon approval from the Undergraduate Chair, and close mentorship by faculty mentors on research projects.

Students wishing to pursue the Honors Track in American Studies must apply and be accepted into the UHM Honors Program and complete all Honors Program requirements. Note that the requirements differ depending on whether a student is accepted in Honors in their freshman year or in the Upper Division program as sophomores or juniors.

In addition, students must also declare American Studies as their major and must complete all requirements of the major. Because the American Studies major's requirements overlap with Honors Program requirements, many courses required for the major and for the Honors Program can count toward both without lengthening the time to completion of their degree and Honors.

Juniors who intend to complete a BA in American Studies must have at least three full semesters remaining to apply to the Honors program, and must successfully complete ten courses in American Studies (of those ten, you have the option of three allied courses) to complete the major.

The track below describes a Spring graduation pathway.

Any Semester

1. Take an Honors elective (typically HON 491 or 291).
 - a. Depending on the topic of the HON seminar, this course may also count toward the AMST major as an allied course upon discussion with the AMST undergraduate chair.
 - b. A graduate course (600 level) in AMST may also substitute for the HON elective seminar.
 - c. Students who enter Honors in their freshman year and have fulfilled the 2 HON /A section requirements of the four year program, and who declare AMST as their major may waive the HON 491/Honors elective requirement but should still make sure they have the right number of AMST credits for the major (30 credits).

First Semester/Three semesters from graduation

1. Take AMST 383 Junior Seminars: 3 credits (Spring semester): this course can also serve to jumpstart the student's Senior Honors Project in American Studies.
2. Submit a proposal for a Senior Honors project, with a faculty mentor ready to approve it.
 - Honors offers HON 495 every semester, which guides students in writing their proposals

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(not required).

Second Semester/Two semesters from graduation

1. HON 496 (3 credits): because identifies credits toward an approved AMST Honors project, these credits can count toward the major as an AMST course.
2. HON 494 (zero credits, online and asynchronous)

Third Semester/Graduating semester

1. AMST 484 (3 credits)
2. Submission of Senior Honors project/American Studies Honors capstone
3. Presentation of work at Undergraduate Showcase

- Fourth and Final semester: students revise and present their research projects
 - HON 496 Senior Honors Project (3 credits)
 - Attendance at Honors Program graduation information session
 - Presentation of completed AMST Honors thesis at the Undergraduate Showcase

American Studies Honors Track students are required to meet with the designated Honors advisor in American Studies every semester to make sure that all the requirements are being met in a timely manner.

When writing/producing their Senior Honors Project, students in the American Studies Honors Track are expected to work closely with at least one main advisor, and form a committee with at least one additional faculty member. This committee will provide guidance to the student regarding the research and writing of the Senior Honors Project and at the end of the process, will recommend whether the Senior Honors Project has earned Honors, and may nominate the project for an Honors Thesis Prize.

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