

# Interdisciplinary Programs

The College of Arts and Sciences offers students the opportunity to pursue studies in programs that are administered jointly by several departments within the College. Students may choose from several majors and/or minors or create a self-designed program that fulfills their individual educational requirements.

## African American Studies

The African American Studies program seeks to promote the interest and knowledge of the African diaspora experience through quality teaching and research. Multidisciplinary in scope, African American Studies offers a selection of courses in English, history, geography, political science, sociology, philosophy, religion, and language. Courses affiliated with the Program are listed each fall and spring semester in the University *Schedule of Classes* under the AAS prefix.

### African American Studies Minor

By completing 21 hours of course work students can earn a minor in African American Studies. This minor offers a cultural, historical, and literary base that can strengthen any major in the Humanities or the Social Sciences. For additional information on the minor, see the listing under the College of Arts and Sciences on page 152.

Visit the African American Studies Web site at: [www.uky.edu/AS/AASRP/](http://www.uky.edu/AS/AASRP/)

## American Studies

American studies draws together diverse disciplines to examine the historical and contemporary forms and issues of our national life. The program in American Studies takes as its field of study any peoples, cultural expressions and social institutions, however or whenever identified as “American.” Program curricula link faculty, courses, and students across a range of humanities, arts, and social science departments.

### American Studies Minor

The minor centers on two interdisciplinary seminars on selected topics in American studies. Students electing the minor are also encouraged to take a range of elective courses to complement their major. The minor in American Studies prepares students for further graduate or professional training, or for work in education, government, or business. For additional information on the minor, see the listing under the College of Arts and Sciences on page 152.

Visit the American Studies Web site at: [www.uky.edu/AS/AmericanCulture/](http://www.uky.edu/AS/AmericanCulture/).

## Appalachian Studies

The Appalachian Studies minor offers students with serious interests in Appalachian regional studies an opportunity to pursue a minor concentration to complement a major in one of the University’s professional or liberal arts programs. This interdisciplinary program enables students to comprehend more fully the history, social structure, and culture of the region – its people, its problems, and its future. The Appalachian Studies Program Director serves as faculty advisor to undergraduate minors and as faculty sponsor of the Appalachian Student Council, an organization for students with an interest in or ties to the Appalachian region.

Faculty and students interested in Appalachian Studies work in cooperation with the Appalachian Center, which was created in 1977, to fulfill the University’s research and service missions in this region. For additional information on the minor, see the listing under the College of Arts and Sciences on pages 152-153

For more information, contact Dr. Ron Pen, (859) 257-8183; or e-mail: [ron.pen@uky.edu](mailto:ron.pen@uky.edu). Visit the Appalachian Studies Web site at: [www.research.uky.edu/appalcenter/](http://www.research.uky.edu/appalcenter/).

## Cognitive Science

Cognitive Science is an interdisciplinary field of study focusing on the mind as an intelligent (information-processing) system. Arising from Noam Chomsky’s seminal criticisms of Behaviorism in the 1950s, Cognitive Science has come to include such disparate disciplines as linguistics, computer science (artificial intelligence, knowledge representation, theory of computation and computational complexity, algorithms), psychology (concepts; memory; reasoning; developmental and cognitive psychology), biology (evolutionary theory, neurobiology), anatomy, neuroscience, the behavioral sciences, and philosophy (language, mind, and logic). The Cognitive Science program at UK offers an undergraduate minor, enabling students to study the mind in an interdisciplinary way. For additional information about the minor, see the listing under the College of Arts and Sciences on page 153.

For more information, visit the Cognitive Science Web site at: [www.as.uky.edu/interProg/CogSci/](http://www.as.uky.edu/interProg/CogSci/); or contact Professor David Westneat, 101 Morgan Biological Sciences Building, Department of Biology, (859) 323-9499, [biodfw@uky.edu](mailto:biodfw@uky.edu).

## Committee on Social Theory

Social theory considers the full range of our social practices, not only the taken-for-grantedness of our social institutions and cultural conditions but also the hidden aspects of our daily lives. Social theory is, as sociologist Charles Lemert puts it, a basic survival skill. It embraces substantive questions about the composition, structure and development of social phenomena, as well as the epistemological conditions that inform our ability to comprehend them. Today, it is one of the most significant and fastest-growing concerns in the humanities and the social sciences. It brings together scholars from a multitude of disciplines in investigations of such topics as the social construction of individuals in contemporary and historical contexts, the nature of the political, the structure of agency, the cultural and economic processes associated with globalization, and the constitution of public space and civil society.

Because many social theoretical issues refuse containment within extant disciplinary demarcations, they are best studied within a multidisciplinary framework. The Committee on Social Theory formed in 1989 to facilitate such theoretical teaching and research projects across disciplinary and college boundaries at the University of Kentucky. The program fosters practical communication through a range of pedagogical and research projects between the humanities and social sciences. The Committee on Social Theory’s events assist faculty and students in testing their own disciplinary understandings and enhancing their own empirical and archival research by building transdisciplinary dialogues. Today, the Committee includes some 50 faculty associates, spanning fourteen departments and five schools, and offers students and faculty an innovative opportunity to pursue social thought in a bracingly interdisciplinary dialogue. Its activities form a unique and exciting environment where students and faculty study the expanding and increasingly important field of social theory and cultural studies.

Visit the Committee on Social Theory Web site at: [www.uky.edu/AS/SocTheo/](http://www.uky.edu/AS/SocTheo/).

## Environmental Studies

Environmental considerations permeate almost every facet of modern life, and concern for “the environment” is practically universal as we approach the twenty-first century. The minor in Environmental Studies is designed to provide students with the opportunity to become conversant in a range of environmental topics, whether as private citizens in their daily lives or as professional members of corporate, government, legal, medical, and educational circles.

### Environmental Studies Minor

The minor draws on topics and perspectives from the natural and physical sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities to underscore the interdisciplinary nature of environmental issues and problems. Students taking the minor are encouraged to integrate the program with their major study focus in order to gain a competitive advantage in grappling with environmental topics. For additional information on the minor, see the listing under the College of Arts and Sciences on page 153.

Visit the Environmental Studies Web site at: [www.as.uky.edu/academics/departments\\_programs/EnvironmentalStudies/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.as.uky.edu/academics/departments_programs/EnvironmentalStudies/Pages/default.aspx).

## Indian Culture

The minor in Indian Culture is designed to allow students to develop a more profound understanding of Indian culture. The curriculum is strongly interdisciplinary, encompassing courses in linguistics, anthropology, English, geography, mathematics, philosophy, political science, and sociology.

Students completing the minor will possess (1) an ability to read Sanskrit (vital for comprehending Indian culture); (2) a well-rounded, multidisciplinary understanding of the culture and geography of India and of contemporary Indian society and politics; and (3) a high degree of preparedness to pursue careers in business or teaching that require knowledge of Indian society and its traditions. For additional information on the minor, see the listing under the College of Arts and Sciences on pages 153-154. For further information, contact Professor Gregory Stump (English and Linguistics), 1253 Patterson Office Tower, (859) 257-1184; Professor Paul Karan (Geography), 1439 Patterson Office Tower, (859) 257-6953; or Professor Avinash Sathaye (Mathematics), 703 Patterson Office Tower, (859) 257-8832.

## Islamic Studies

The interdisciplinary minor in Islamic Studies will provide the opportunity to study the culture, language, literature, religion, history and philosophy of Muslim peoples throughout the world from antiquity to the present. Students will acquire a rounded understanding of Islamic culture, the ability to interpret information and news from the Middle East and elsewhere in an independent way, with understanding of the issues from the perspective of the Muslim countries, and will be prepared to pursue careers that require a knowledge of Islamic civilization. For additional information on the minor, see the listing under the College of Arts and Sciences on page 154.

## Japan Studies

The Japan Studies program supports a community of Japan area specialists who teach and pursue research in the University’s various departments (geography, history, English, political science, Russian and Eastern studies, sociology) and professional schools (architecture and communications). In addition to teaching and research responsibilities, the faculty lecture to outside groups, write extensively for both scholarly journals and popular media, author books on Japan, and participate in national professional associations. The program responds to and fosters growing American interest (particularly in Kentucky) in Japan.

The emphasis of the program is on social sciences and humanities, including Japanese cultural geography, history, languages and literature, films, society, and environment. In this sense the Japanese Studies program at the University of Kentucky is unique and has been well received nationally as well as by our students as reflected in growing enrollment figures.

### Japan Studies Minor

The Japan Studies minor complements existing majors and prepares students with the skills that are required to work with Japan given its integral place in international business. Students will also become well-versed in the culture and geography of Japan, its history, arts, and environment. This background will prepare students for Japan-related careers in the United States and abroad. For additional information on the minor, see the listing under the College of Arts and Sciences on page 154.

### Topical Major in Japan Studies

The topical major was created for students whose interests cut across traditional departmental and college lines and who want to be on the “cutting edge” of today’s job market. It allows students to satisfy a niche that could not be fulfilled in any of the college’s traditional departments. For additional information, see the listing on topical majors under the College of Arts and Sciences on pages 111-112.

Visit the Japan Studies Web site at: [www.as.uky.edu/Japan/](http://www.as.uky.edu/Japan/).

## Judaic Studies

The interdisciplinary minor in Judaic Studies at the University of Kentucky provides students with the opportunity to become acquainted with the culture, language, literature, religion, history, and philosophy of the Jewish people from antiquity to the present. For additional information on the minor, see the listing under the College of Arts and Sciences on page 154.

Visit the Judaic Studies Web site at: [www.uky.edu/AS/JudaicStudies/](http://www.uky.edu/AS/JudaicStudies/).

## Latin American Studies

Latin American Studies is an interdisciplinary program bringing together scholars in the arts, humanities, social and environmental sciences who wish to understand Latin America as a major world region that continues to contribute unique and original understandings to the global community. By Latin America, we include South America, the Caribbean and North America. We are particularly focused on Latin American peoples, including those residents in the contemporary United States. Latin American Studies scholars celebrate diversity, recognizing the signal contributions of indigenous (first) peoples, African diaspora, European immigrants, women and other diverse communities. As such, Latin American scholars have developed such important intellectual contributions as dependency theory, magical realism, and critiques of ‘ecological neocolonialism’ among others.

Latin American Studies embraces the many missions of the University of Kentucky. We work to provide undergraduate education, study abroad opportunities, graduate and faculty scholarship and enrichment, and to engage the broader Latino community of Kentucky in accordance with the University’s ‘Land Grant’ mission to enrich the lives of all Kentuckians.

### Latin American Studies Minor

Through an interdisciplinary approach, students pursuing a minor in Latin American Studies select from courses in anthropology, geography, history, and Spanish language, among others, in order to gain a cultural and geographic understanding of a specific region. Students also conduct senior research and interact heavily with faculty members.

For additional information on Latin American Studies, see the listing under the College of Arts and Sciences on page 154.

## **Linguistics**

Linguistics is an interdisciplinary program combining resources from English, anthropology, psychology, philosophy, computer science, and the foreign languages, to develop an understanding of the nature and implications of human language. The Linguistics program provides solid foundations in phonological and grammatical analysis, as well as opportunities to investigate the social, cultural, psychological, and physical aspects of language use.

### **Linguistics Major**

The Linguistics program offers an undergraduate major that includes courses in linguistics and related courses cross-listed with a variety of departments. Linguistics students frequently graduate with a double major in linguistics and one of the related departments, such as the foreign languages. For additional information on the major, see the listing under the College of Arts and Sciences on pages 135-136.

### **Linguistics Minor**

The Linguistics program also offers an undergraduate minor that includes 18 hours of course work in linguistics and related courses in a variety of departments. As part of the linguistics major or minor, students may elect to complete the sequence of courses focusing on Teaching English as a Second language; this track within linguistics can open up a variety of avenues for English teaching positions in the U.S. and abroad. For additional information on the minor, see the listing under the College of Arts and Sciences on page 136.

Visit the Linguistics Program Web site at: [www.as.uky.edu/linguistics/](http://www.as.uky.edu/linguistics/).