

Carleton

American Studies Program

507-222-5248

Welcome Friend,

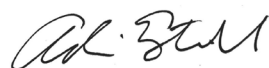
Congratulations on being accepted to Carleton! As the Director of the American Studies Program, I'm delighted to introduce you to [American Studies at Carleton](#). Founded in the 1950s, American Studies is one of the initial sites of interdisciplinary studies on campus, inviting students to think broadly and deeply about the U.S. "experiment" – its histories, communities, narratives, and sounds. American Studies majors hold a wide range of intellectual interests, but generally share a passionate investment in social justice and social change; they want to be challenged to rethink what they've been taught about America.

American Studies majors take classes across the curriculum as they study the complex workings of U.S. society and culture, including courses in Sociology, History, Cinema and Media Studies, Computer Science, and Political Science. Each major chooses one of our thematic streams to organize their coursework: Race, Ethnicity, and Indigeneity; Democracy, Activism, and Class; Space and Place; Production and Consumption of Culture; or America in the World. Our [courses](#) bring majors and minors together in interdisciplinary conversations about American histories, narratives, and ideals: examples include *Beauty and Race in America* (AMST 225), *Contemporary Indigenous Activism* (AMST 231), *The 1930s: Social and Cultural Impact of the Great Depression* (AMST 254).

American Studies majors have found a range of off-campus study programs [overseas](#) or [domestic](#) valuable to their study, and also [Winter Break programs](#) including programs in the U.S. Majors have also gravitated to [non-Carleton programs](#) that focus on the U.S. Mexico border and highlight social inequality and activism.

One of our students recently proclaimed that "American Studies is a conversation that does not end in the classroom, but marches forward on the streets, waxes eloquent in homes and houses of worship, and everywhere else Americans demand to be treated justly and with dignity." Given our majors' understanding of American Studies as a way of studying our world that exceeds academics, it should not surprise you that, in their time after Carleton, our graduates can be found in all sorts of walks of life: new and old media, public policy, law, education, activism and organizing, museums, business, medicine, and many more. We are excited to welcome you into our community! If you are interested in American Studies, I'd welcome a chance to chat with you – email me at aestill@carleton.edu to get the conversation started.

Sincerely,



Adriana Estill

Director, American Studies

