American Graffiti



Northwestern | Program in American Studies

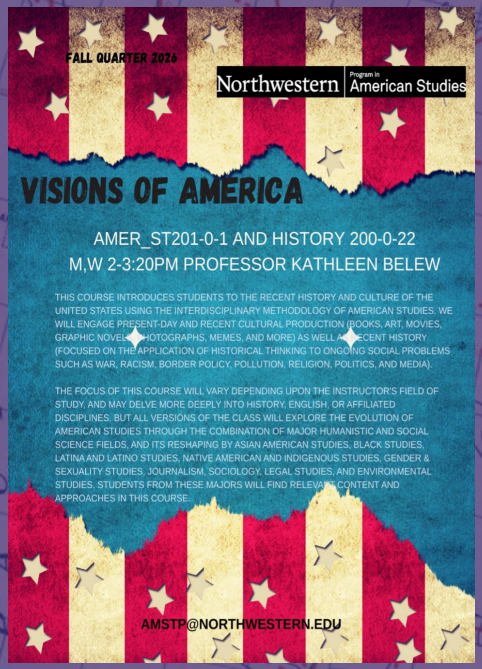
Volume 27 2026-2027

AMERICAN GRAFFITI Volume 27 2026-2027 MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The leaves are changing in Evanston, and an exciting new year of American Studies at Northwestern is underway! This fall, we've begun Visions of America, a 200-level, 70-seat lecture for students of all levels across Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences. The class is an introduction to American history and culture focused on the myths that gather the nation into a political whole. If you'd like to read along with us, you can pick up Richard Slotkin's *A Great Disorder*, which lays out the Myths of the Founding, the Frontier, the Lost Cause, and the Good War. We're studying these through film, art, history, literature, memes, music, and—my personal favorite—personal and creative reflection. I've been teaching undergraduates for more than a decade, and I think this might be my favorite class.

In Visions of America, we're trying an approach that is completely new to Weinberg College: our stellar advanced undergrads are teaching sections as Peer Assistants. They run their own weekly seminar, teaching their colleagues about evidence-based discussion, consensus, and, of course, what they've learned about American Studies. I can't say enough good things about this group of new teachers. As they teach, we're also meeting in a concurrent seminar, America Realized, in which they participate in graduate-level discussions of books that inform the next week's lectures. This iterative mode—returning to the material more than once—lets them illuminate the primary sources in section, and also lets them engage deeper, more advanced themes and questions. Every class is an object lesson in American Studies: they bring in their course experiences and interests, taking us through literary analysis, history, social movements, journalism, and political science.

Visions of America is our way of giving something back to the college. In times of tight budgets, we remain exceedingly grateful for the freedom afforded by being funded entirely by the generosity of our alumni. We have maintained, for our majors, a space of exceptional inventiveness, community, and experimentation within the wider university.





Last year's experiential learning trip to Tucson, Arizona, took fifteen of our majors, as well as one staff member and two faculty, to sites including a missile-silo museum, the "Biosphere 2" alternate ecosystem, the Sonora Desert, and a variety of cultural encounters.

This year, we plan to travel to Minneapolis to study art, music, and social movement organizing. Our students and faculty value these trips not only as opportunities for immersion in cultural sites, but also for the many ways that they deepen cohort bonds and provide occasions for engagement.

Our majors continue to include the best and brightest at Northwestern. Last year's graduates have begun new chapters at Stanford Law, as a speechwriter for the New York City Council, and working at a political campaign, to name just a few. Others are applying for law school and doctoral programs and figuring out their next steps. I know that great things await each of them.

In this season of anniversaries—Northwestern University is 175 years old this year, and the United States is 250—I invite you to take a fond moment to think about your time in American Studies. We're collecting messages of advice from alumni to our majors, and we would love to hear from you (just as we love to hear about your weddings, children, jobs, books, creative pursuits, pivots, and all of the twists and turns of life after college). Please drop us a note and tell us what you're up to.

Meanwhile, we're marking the semiquincentennial with Culture Club, a film and book club that pairs recent blockbusters with textual lodestars. Running in tandem with our 301 seminar series, we will watch *Sinners*, *One Battle After Another* and *Project Hail Mary*, paired with *Black Boy*, *A Puerto Rican in New York*, and *The Overstory* in turn. Feel free to join us, or stop by campus for a screening (with popcorn, of course)!

Kathleen Belew DIRECTOR OF THE PROGRAM IN AMERICA STUDIES



Year-End Party



2026 Graduation



Kathleen Belew (Associate Professor, History) is a lifelong pursuer of interdisciplinary scholarship, delighted to direct the American Studies Program at Northwestern. She earned a doctorate in American Studies from Yale University and an undergrad degree in Comparative History of Ideas from the University of Washington. This education fed her interest in story-driven research and her specialization in the history of the present.

Belew's forthcoming book, *Home at the End of the World*, illuminates an era of apocalypse through a history focused on her native Colorado where, in the 1990s, high-profile kidnappings and murders, right-wing religious ideology, and a mass shooting exposed rents in America's social fabric, and dramatically changed our relationship with place, violence, and politics (Random House).

Her first book, *Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America* explores how white power activists created a social movement through a common story about betrayal by the government, war, and its weapons, uniforms, and technologies. By uniting Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazi, skinhead, and other groups, the movement mobilized and carried out escalating acts of violence that reached a crescendo in the 1995 bombing of Oklahoma City. This movement was never adequately confronted, and remains a threat to American democracy.

She is co-editor of and contributor to *A Field Guide to White Supremacy*, and has contributed essays to *Myth America, The Presidency of Donald J. Trump: A First Historical Assessment*, and *Conspiracy/Theory*. Her award-winning teaching centers on the broad themes of history of the present, conservatism, race, gender, violence, identity, and the meaning of war.

Belew has spoken about her scholarly research on wide variety of platforms, including The Rachel Maddow Show, The Last Word With Lawrence O'Donnell, AC 360 with Anderson Cooper, Frontline, Fresh Air, and All Things Considered. Her work has featured prominently in documentaries such as Homegrown Hate: The War Among Us (ABC) and Documenting Hate: New American Nazis (Frontline). Her research has received the support of the Chauncey and Marion Deering McCormick Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Jacob K. Javits Foundation. Belew earned her BA in the Comparative History of Ideas from the University of Washington, where she was named Dean's Medalist in the Humanities. Belew has held postdoctoral fellowships from the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University (2019-20), Northwestern University, and Rutgers University.





Shana Bernstein (Ph.D., Stanford, 2003) is an historian of the twentieth-century United States, with a particular interest in social reform movements, including civil rights and environmental health and justice. Originally from Northern California, where she completed degrees at UC Berkeley and Stanford, she initially joined Northwestern as a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Latino Studies before accepting a tenure-track position in History at Southwestern University in 2004. She rejoined the Northwestern faculty in 2014 as a Clinical Associate Professor of Legal Studies.



Nicolette Bruner (Ph.D. in English Language and Literature, University of Michigan; J.D., University of Michigan Law School) is Assistant Professor of Instruction at the Center for Legal Studies and the Program in American Studies. Prior to joining Northwestern's faculty, she was a postdoctoral fellow with the Stevanovich Institute on the Formation of Knowledge at the University of Chicago and taught in the Department of English at Western Kentucky University.

Bruner's research explores how the law shapes the way humans understand and interact with the nonhuman entities and systems around them. Her current book project, Thing People: Living with Corporations and Other Nonhumans, examines how the legal doctrine of corporate personhood offers a framework for articulating the rights and responsibilities of other nonhuman entities, including animals, plants, rivers, and robots. She also teaches and works in American literature, corporate law and policy, jurisprudence, and the environmental humanities.



Geraldo L. Cadava is an historian of the United States. He focuses on the history of Latinos in the United States and the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. Originally from Tucson, Arizona, he came to Northwestern after finishing his Ph.D. at Yale University.

He is the author of *The Hispanic Republican: The Shaping of an American Political Identity, from Nixon to Trump* (New York: Ecco, 2020); and also *Standing on Common Ground: The Making of a Sunbelt Borderland* (Harvard University Press, 2013), about the Arizona-Sonora borderland since World War II. He is now working on a book about Latino history over the past 500 years, tentatively titled *A Thousand Bridges*, to be published by Crown in 2026.

Cadava is also a Contributing Writer at *The New Yorker*; co-Editor-in-Chief of the online magazine *Public Books*; host of the podcast *Writing Latinos*; and Principal Investigator for Northwestern's Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program.

At Northwestern, he teaches courses on Latino History, the American West, the U.S.-Mexico borderlands, migration to and from Latin America, and other topics in U.S. history, including Watergate, the 2016 election, and the musical *Hamilton*.



Robert Orsi (Ph.D. Philosophy, Yale University) is the first holder of the Grace Craddock Nagle Chair in Catholic Studies. Professor Orsi studies American religious history and contemporary practice; American Catholicism in both historical and ethnographic perspective; and he is widely recognized also for his work on theory and method for the study of religion. In 2002-2003, he was president of the American Academy of Religion. Professor Orsi has held fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Fulbright Foundation. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2010 he received the E. Leroy Hall Award for Teaching Excellence, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Northwestern University, the highest recognition for teaching offered by WCAS.



Mérida M. Rúa is an interdisciplinary scholar whose research and teaching focus on the history and politics of communities of color in U.S. urban life. Her work centers the everyday experiences of Puerto Ricans in Chicago as it also necessarily considers their structural and social relations to other racialized groups. Rúa's current book project, Shouldering Age in the Big City, chronicles the ordinary, diverse, and complex lives of older adult Latinas and Latinos to examine not only how they talk about and make meaning of their experiences and their environments as aging persons, but also the ways in which these frames of reference have and continue to guide their actions and inactions. The book aims to convey a better understanding of the diverse aging population, and how specific groups within this population navigate social and structural inequalities as they make their lives and communities. Rúa's research program bridges areas of inquiry -- Latina and Latino studies, American studies, urban studies, and aging studies -- typically segmented in the scholarly literature, social policy, and public discourse. In so doing, it disrupts dominant narratives of U.S. cities as social and political spaces polarized between black and white and offers more nuanced attention to age and aging in examinations of urban social and spatial practices.

AMERICAN STUDIES STAFF



Carlos Ballinas is Senior Program Administrator in American Studies Carlos Ballinas received a B.A. from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a Ph.D. in Higher Education from Loyola University Chicago. He has worked at Northwestern University for 11 years and currently provides administrative support to the Council for Race and Ethnic Studies, the Asian American Studies Program, and the Latina and Latino Studies Program. Before that, he worked at the City Colleges of Chicago and El Valor.



Julie Lavin. Program Assistant. Julie received a B.A. from University of Kansas in Journalism and has worked in a variety of nonprofits in the Chicagoland area including the Evanston Community Foundation and the Chicago Botanic Garden.









THE AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM
PRESENTS

SENIOR SYMPOSIUM

May 14, 2026 3:30PM
Hagstrum Room, University Hall 201

TALIA WINIARSKY

PSIPPI HAENDEL

SIMON CARR

TÉA BARTLETT

JORDYN HOWARD

MELANIE TAPIA

Northwestern | American Studies





Graduation!





Téa Bartlett

ADVISOR **ABIGAIL BAREFOOT**

Alabama's Sex Toy Wars: Adult Entertainment Stores' Resistance to Alabama Lawmaker's Weaponization of Morality Within the Alabama Anti-Obscenity Enforcement Act of 1998.

Téa is attending Stanford Law School.



Simon Carr

ADVISOR **GERALDO CADAVA**

Market Discipline or Municipal Design? Political Economy of the Radical Bookstore.

Simon is Deputy Field Coordinator for a policial campaign in Providence, RI.



Psippi Haendel

ADVISOR **SUSAN PEARSON**

The Murdered Sweetheart: Pregnancy, Martyrdom, and Refashioning History in an American Ballad Tradition.

Psippi is exploring opportunities on the west coast.



Jordyn Howard

ADVISOR **SIMONE ZINAIDA ISPA-LANDA**

Paying to Belong: The Financial Strain of Social Belonging for Low-Income Students in College Communities.

Jordyn is exploring opportunities in Chicago.



Melanie Tapia

ADVISOR **MARK WITTE**

Corn, Congress, and Consequences: The Political Economy of Ethanol Made in America.

Melanie is exploring opportunities in Chicago.



Talia Winiarsky

ADVISOR **KATHLEEN BELEW**

Practical or Poison? A Tale of Water Fluoridation in Two Midwestern Cities.

Talia is a speechwriter for the New York City Council.

Spring Break 2026
Tucson









Sabino Canyon





Desert Museum



Licuados!









Missile Museum











San Xavier













Biosphere





2026 Awards

American Studies Student Recognition:

Carl Smith Prize for Outstanding Student Essay in American Studies
Téa Bartlett

Jay Rosen American Studies Scholarship
Darby Martinez-Stapleton

Phi Beta Kappa
Téa Bartlett

American Studies Staff Recognition:

Dean's Recognition Award
Carlos Ballinas

Community Excellence Award
Julie Lavin

Other Noteworthy Awards, Grants and Fellowships

Jack Baker was the Editor in Chief of the Summer *Daily Northwestern.*

Kylie Chen was an intern at Mochi Magazine over the summer and is a Real Food Challenge Organizing Fellow.

Sharmel Gibson completed her independent research project through Emerging Scholars.

Kira Hughes was an intern for Congressman Jim Costa of California's 21st District.

Moorea Lambert received the Molotsky Award from NU School of Communications.

Charlie Meyers was an intern at the Missouri History Museum and is the Communications Director for College Democrats at Northwestern. Additionally, she is a fellow with the Litowitz Center for Enlightened Disagreement.

Dina Miranda presented her research on dust in American literature at the Pacific and Ancient Modern Language Association conference in Seattle.

Simon Olshan-Cantin joined the MacArthur Justice Center over the summer as a Communications Intern.

Emily Paton was an intern at the Japan America Society of Chicago.

Ashley Wong is working as a creative at Media Arts Lab, the bespoke creative agency for Apple, while finishing her undergrad degree.

Clara Wood was an intern at the Nordic Welfare Center in partnership with Roskilde University over the summer through a SIGP grant.



Student Advisory Board (SAB) Representatives for 2026-2027:
Dani Caceres, Darby Martinez-Stapleton, Lucia Patterson, Rohan Venkatesan and Clara Wood

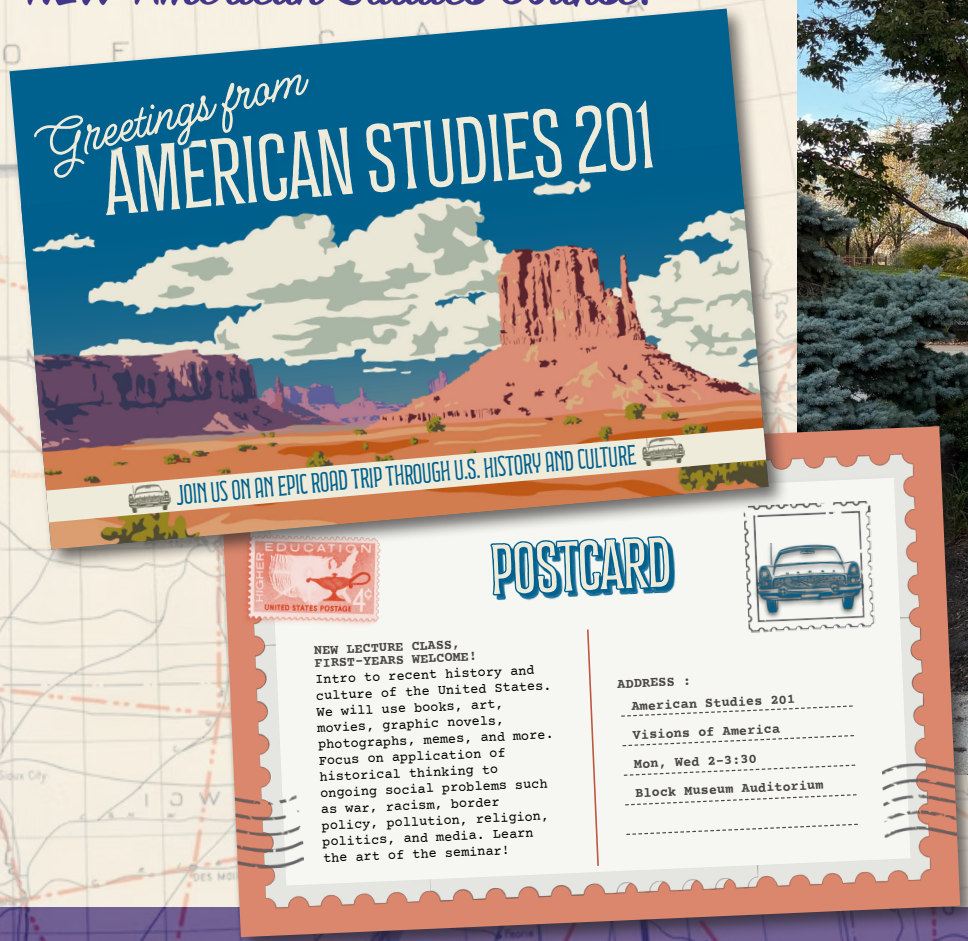
American Studies Curriculum from 2025-26

American Studies Curriculum: amstp.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/curriculum.html

AMER_ST 301- *Seminar for Majors: FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL*
Fall 2025, 301-1: *LOCAL* **Shana Bernstein**
Winter '26, 301-2: *NATIONAL* **Michael Allen**
Spring '26, 301-3: *GLOBAL* **Nicolette Bruner**

AMER_ST 390-1 + 390-2, Fall '25 and Winter '26
SENIOR PROJECT **Gerry Cadava**

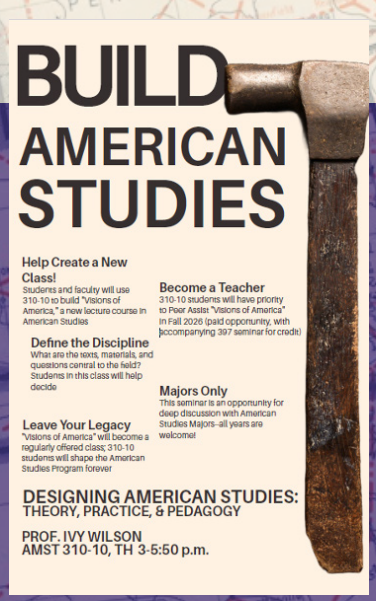
NEW American Studies Course!





AMER_ST 310-0: *Studies in American Culture* (various topics):
AMSTP.NORTHWESTERN.EDU/COURSES

THE MODERN AMERICAN PRESIDENCY **Michael Allen**
U.S. HEALTH: ILLNESS, ENVIRONMENT, GENDER, RACE & INEQUALITY **Shana Bernstein**
EXHIBITING RELIGION **James Bielo**
WHAT IS CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM **James Bielo**
FEAR OF ROBOTS **Nicolette Bruner**
THE MILITARY INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX **Keva Bui**
AMERICAN RELIGIOUS HISTORY: WWII TO PRESENT **Robert Orsi**
COMING OF AGE IN LATINX STUDIES: SCHOLARS AND WRITERS **Mérida Rúa**
DILEMMAS OF AMERICAN POWER **Peter Slevin**
DESIGNING AMERICAN STUDIES: THEORY, PRACTICE, AND PEDAGOGY **Ivy Wilson**









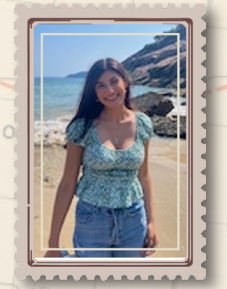
Gavin Fisk comes from Franklin, Indiana, and has majors in Journalism and American Studies, as well as a minor in English Literature. He is interested in studying the pervasion of propaganda into cultural media, especially as it pertains to the construction of masculinities. Fisk writes for campus media groups like North by Northwestern and Scene + Heard and enjoys reading, going for runs and playing guitar in his free time.

Kira Hughes is a Journalism and American Studies major from Clovis, California. Her research focus is centered on the role of women in alt-right organizations in the U.S. Outside of academics, she is a member of the Mock Trial Team, Delta Gamma, the *Undergraduate Law Journal* and Northwestern's fashion magazine, *Stitch*. She enjoys movies, scrapbooking and Margaret Atwood novels.





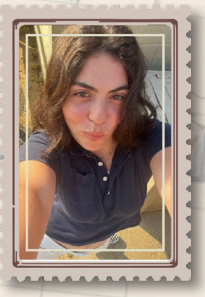
Tahlia Margulies is majoring in Theatre and American Studies with a minor in Legal Studies. She is a member of Northwestern's Mock Trial team, Kappa Delta sorority, and participates in musicals every quarter. She is very excited to be a part of American Studies because she loves its discussion based approach to discuss difficult but important topics within a small cohort.



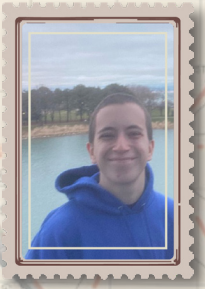
Darby Martinez-Stapleton is a History and American Studies double major from Seattle and Denver. Her research interests include the Civil Rights Movement, Satanic Panic, and contemporary gun violence in the United States. On campus, Darby is involved in the Library Student Advisory Committee and is currently employed at Deering Library as a Collections Processing Aide. In her free time you can find her taking the "L" to Chicago, going to the movies, or spending time in the gym.



Medina "Dina" Miranda is an American Studies major from Long Beach, California. Her research interests include the urban history of America as well as the impact of gentrification, including linguistic gentrification, on marginalized communities. Dina also plays the horn in Concert Band and is a member of Northwestern's Kaibigan. In her free time, Dina loves watching movies and knitting, and wants to become able to do both simultaneously.



Jamie Neiberg is from Manhattan, double majoring in journalism and American Studies. She remains curious, whether that be about different historical movements or just completing a crossword puzzle. In addition to her role as a senior features editor on North by Northwestern, participating in the Sanders Scholars program and serving as a Leopold Fellow for Professor Kathleen Belew, she likes to read and hang out with her friends. If you see her on her phone, she'll probably be playing Spelling Bee or reading the recipes on New York Times cooking.



Simon Olshan-Cantin is an American Studies and History double major from Westport, Connecticut. He cares about music, movies, and his friends, and is interested in studying how solidarity is created around and across nationality, ethnicity, and class. He wants to understand why things are the way they are, and how they could be better.



Ashley Wong is a American Studies and Journalism double major from Singapore. She is most interested in American urbanism, counterculture movements, and visual cultures. As a curious non-citizen in the American Studies department, Wong looks forward to utilizing that tension to explore matters of cultural assimilation and an increasingly international Americana. Prior to attending Northwestern, she was a creative professional in Singapore, working in advertising agencies and the music business.



Clara Wood is an American Studies major with a minor in Dance. Her interests lie in history through pop culture, media, and the environment as a social construct. Wood plans to explore the relationship between historical events and social change through mainstream media, with a concentration on gender dynamics. Outside of academics, Wood is the music director of Northwestern's "X-factors-" an acapella group on campus- as well as a dancer in Northwestern's Latin American dance group, "Dale Duro." In her free time, Wood loves spending time with her dog, playing piano, and watching the sitcom "Friends."

American Studies

Spring Quarter Outing

















Sarah Brown is a double-major in journalism and American Studies from San Diego. She has additional academic interests in marketing, environmental studies, and film-media. At Northwestern, Sarah sails with the NU Sailing Team and writes, edits and designs for various student publications. Outside of class, you will probably find her at the beach, hiking with friends or scrolling Depop.



Kylie Chen is an American Studies and journalism double-major from the California Bay Area. Her research interests include protest and civil disobedience, as well as how media coverage of political dissent shapes public perceptions of movements and the issues they organize for. Outside of the classroom, Chen enjoys playing music, cooking with her friends, walking by the lake, and volunteering for Books & Breakfast.



Moorea Lambert is a double-major in American Studies and Radio/Television/Film from Colchester, Vermont. She is especially interested in exploring how religion shapes American culture and legislation. This past summer, she worked with the CCTV Center for Media and Democracy and developed choreography for the premiere of Missed Connections at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. On campus, Moorea works with the NU College Democrats and the Jewish Theater Ensemble, and enjoys reading and cooking in her spare time.



Ari Arceo is an American Studies and Political Science major from Dallas, Texas. His research interests include the history and future of immigration policy, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the impacts of diversity programs. Ari participates on the Northwestern Policy Debate Team, loves mint chocolate chip ice cream, and long walks along the beach.



Jack Baker is a double-major in American Studies and Journalism from Little Rock, Arkansas. He is interested in how race and gender have shaped American politics, particularly during the Civil Rights Movement. On campus, Jack writes for *The Daily Northwestern* and serves as Vice President of Willard Residential College. In his free time, he enjoys hammocking on the Lakefill, exploring Chicago, and listening to vinyl records.



Daniela Caceres is an American Studies major and Art Theory and Practice minor from Austin, Texas. She is interested in the intersections of queer and Latino art, media, and politics, and how they shape identity and cultural representation. She recently researchhed lesbian representation in Latin American telenovelas as a part of the Posner Fellowship. In her free time, Daniela enjoys crocheting, reading, and going to concerts.



Sharmel Gibson is a double major in American studies and Social Policy from Oak Park, Michigan. She is interested in exploring the American public education system and how the education system interacts with people from marginalized backgrounds in terms of race, class, and gender etc. She is also interested in researching policy and how the US Government interacts with citizens. At Northwestern, Sharmel is also a Peer Advisor and a member of Students Demand Action. In her free time, she enjoys reading and spending time outside.



Sam Meltzer is an American Studies major from New York, also studying English Literature. His primary focus is on the role of sexuality and desire across early American literature, particularly in the so-called "literary canon" and the tradition of the "Great American Novel." On campus, he has written and edited for The Daily Northwestern and North by Northwestern and is a member of the Triathlon Club. During his free time, he enjoys watching classic films from the 1960s and 1970s and visiting the Art Institute of Chicago.

Emily Paton is a double major in American Studies and History from Portland, Maine. She is interested in U.S. foreign relations and how American culture is consumed internationally, as well as how international media reciprocally shapes American culture and identity. Emily enjoys working in the Preservation Department in Northwestern Libraries, playing the violin, and painting.





Beatrice Selch is an American Studies major also interested in studying English Literature and Environmental Policy from New York City. She is interested in the intersections between history and literature and how literature often illuminates different narratives and perspectives. On campus, she is involved in two magazines, the *Helicon* and *Scene & Heard*, and is a member of the club field hockey team. In her spare time, she likes to read, explore new neighborhoods and restaurants and spend time with friends and family.

Dava Sitkof is an American Studies and English double major with a Psychology minor from Boston, MA. They are interested in studying storytelling and belief systems, specifically the idea of American myths, American-founded evangelical religions, and representations of history in literature. On campus, Dava enjoys singing with Northwestern's Camerata and doing dramaturgy work for theater productions. Dava is also part of a fraternity for female and non-binary musicians (Sigma Alpha Iota), and loves hiking and rock climbing!





Rohan Venkatesan is an American Studies and Music Performance dual degree student from Sunnyvale, California. He is interested in studying the effect of the judiciary, particularly the Supreme Court, on broader social movements across the United States. On campus, he is a part of the World Affairs Group and the Political Union. In his free time, Rohan enjoys playing the euphonium, thrifting, listening to music, and playing/watching soccer (massive Tottenham Hotspur fan).







Elin Amundson is an American Studies and MMSS major also minoring in Dance from Naperville, Illinois. Through her research, she hopes to examine modern gender inequality and threats to reproductive health from legal and policy perspectives. On campus, Elin is involved with the NU Community for Human Rights, Phi Alpha Delta, and Books and Breakfast. She is also a company member of Graffiti Dancers, Tonik Tap, and Steam Heat Dance Co. In her free time, Elin enjoys crocheting, exploring new neighborhoods in Chicago, and going on walks by the lakefill.

Julien Gray is a double major in Theatre and American Studies with a minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies from New York City. He is interested in the intersection between art and politics and while he believes all art is inherently political, he is specifically interested in art that may not be intentionally political, as well as anything in the horror genre. He is excited about American Studies because he wants to better understand the U.S. in context of other countries, and why it is the way it is today. On campus he is a member of TBD, Seesaw Theatre, and the producer of his acapella group, Asterik. In his free time you can find him playing guitar, reading, playing with a dog, and or most likely going on a sidequest with his friends.





Allegra Lief is a Journalism, Political Science, and American Studies major from New York City. Her interests lie at the intersection of gender and politics, law, the arts, and civic engagement through journalism. On campus, she is involved with the Global Engagement Summit, the Women's Network, *The Daily Northwestern*, the *Northwestern Undergraduate Law Journal*, and Delta Gamma sorority. She also is a '*Cat Chat* host and tutors weekly for Books and Breakfast at Oakton Elementary School.

Charlie Meyers is an American Studies major with a second major in Journalism and minors in Spanish and History, from St. Louis, Missouri. Her interests focus on Environmental racism and prejudice that impact lower income communities and communities of color, along with journalistic integrity and educational reform. Charlie is involved on campus with the DeBerry Civic Scholars, College Democrats, the Northwestern Sailing Team, LEAP, Womxn in Law, Journalists in Law, Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, and Northwestern club field hockey.





Lucia Patterson is an American Studies and Philosophy major from San Francisco, California. Her interests include politics, law, and critical theory. On campus, she is part of the Northwestern Debate Society of intercollegiate policy debate and is a Posner research fellow in humanities research studying the epistemology of political polarization. Lucia also volunteers for Books and Breakfast at Washington Elementary School in Evanston and judges policy debate for the national high school circuit.

American Studies

Around the Globe!





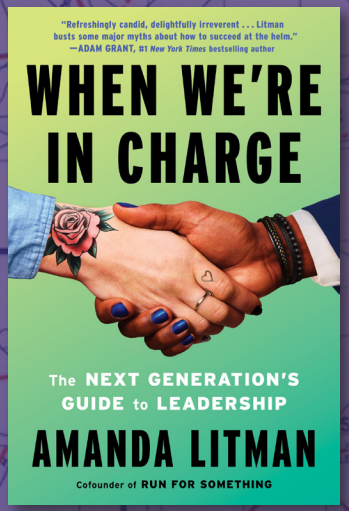


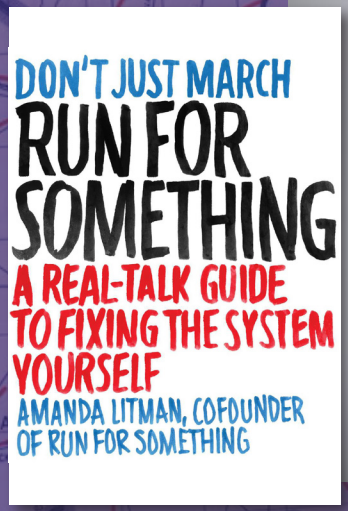


American Studies

2026 Alumni Event

On Thursday, April 29, 2026, American Studies hosted a dinner and talk with Northwestern University alumna Amanda Litman.



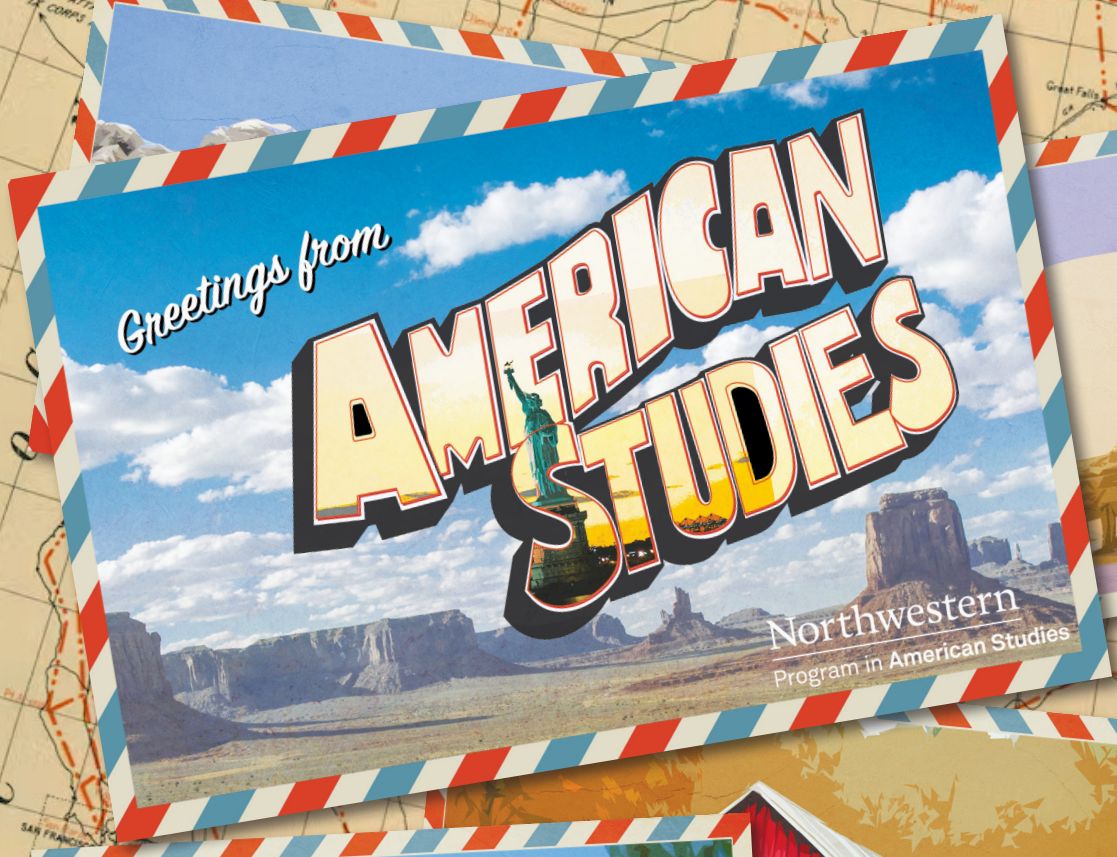




Amanda Litman is the cofounder and president of Run for Something, which recruits and supports young, diverse leaders running for local office-since 2017, they've launched the careera of thousanda of millenniala and Gen Z candidates and in the process, changed what leaderahip looks like in Anerica.

She's also the author of two books: *When We're In Charge: The Next Generation's Quide to Leaderahip* (Crooked Media Reade, 2025) and *Run for Something: A Real-Talk Guide to Fixing the System Yourself* (Atria, 2017) a how-to manual for people running for office.

Before launching Run for Something, worked on multiple presidential and statewide political campaigns. She graduated from Northwestern University in 2012.









PROGRAM IN AMERICAN STUDIES
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American Studies Curriculum 2026-27

SEMINAR FOR MAJORS: *What is America and What Has it Been?*
Race, Ethnicity and Identity in America // Fall Quarter
Professor **Shana Bernstein** (Legal Studies and American Studies)

America/Américas Theme Hemispheres // Winter Quarter
Professor **Mérida Rúa** (Latina and Latino Studies and American Studies)

America 1968 // Spring Quarter
Professor **Robert Orsi** (Religious Studies and American Studies)

Senior Seminar - Fall/Winter Quarters
Professor **Nicolette Bruner** (Legal Studies and American Studies)

NEW COURSE *Visions of America and America Realized* // Fall Quarter
Professor **Kathleen Belew** (History and American Studies)

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